PARANORMAL UNDERGROUND®

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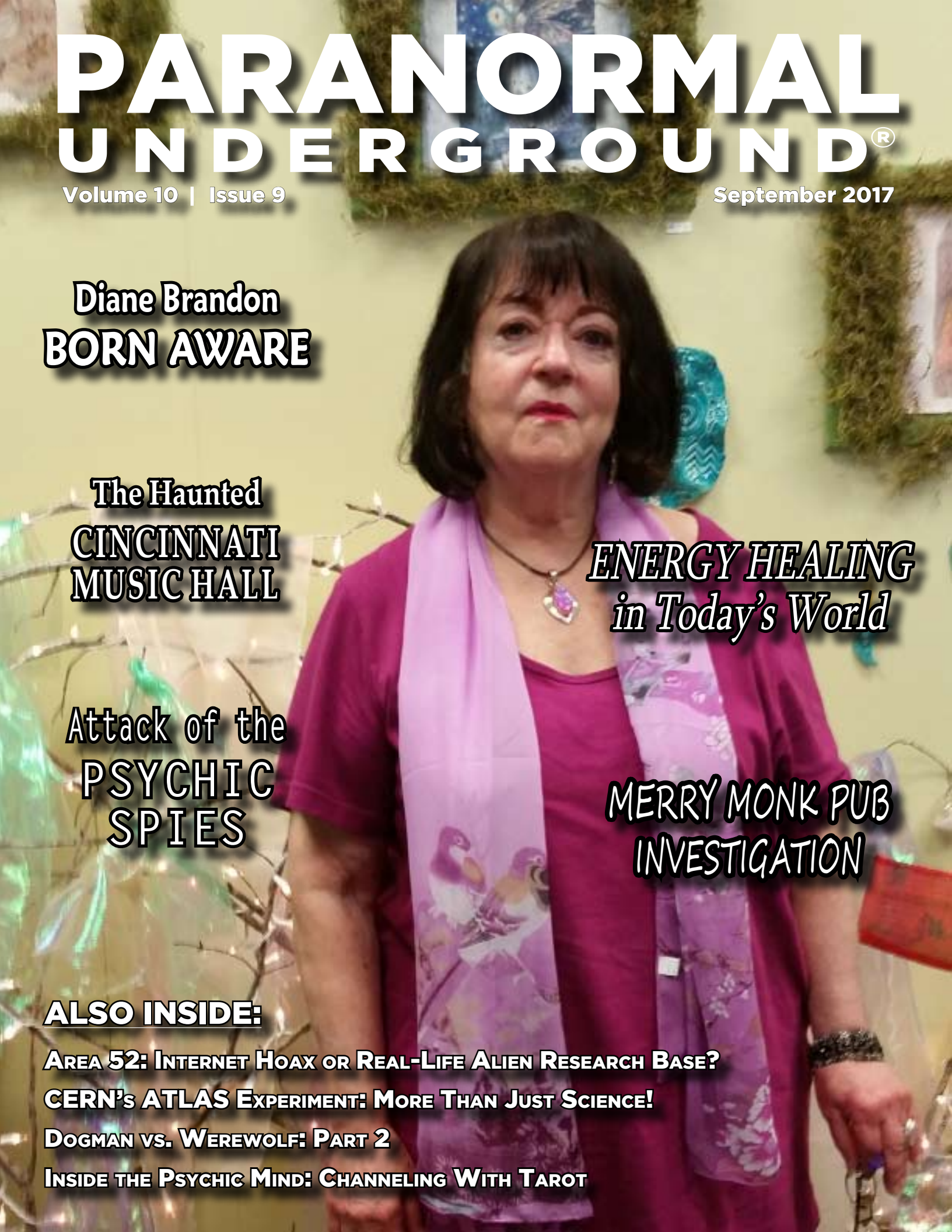

Diane Brandon BORN AWARE

The Haunted CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL

ENERGY HEALING in Today's World

Attack of the PSYCHIC SPIES

MERRY MONK PUB INVESTIGATION

ALSO INSIDE:

- Area 52: Internet Hoax or Real-Life Alien Research Base?
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Table Of Contents

CASE FILES OF THE UNKNOWN

24 **Haunted Sites**
Haunted Cincinnati Music Hall to Reopen in October

28 **Haunted History**
Attack of the Psychic Spies

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

10 **Intuitive Spotlight**
Born Aware: Diane Brandon's Spiritual Journey

22 **Haunted Entertainment**
'The Coelbren Alphabet': Book Review

52 **Author Profile**
'Called by the Vampire' by V. Vaughn

PARANORMAL INSIGHTS

16 **Special Report**
CERN's ATLAS Experiment: More Than Just Science!

32 **Inside the Psychic Mind**
Channeling With Tarot

34 **Metaphysics & Energy Healing**
What in the World Is Happening? Energy Healing in Today's World

36 **The Secret Life of Dreams**
Dream Interpretation: Past Lives and the Akashic Record

38 **The Shaman Windwalker**
The Unseen

40 **Get Spooked**
Area 52: Internet Hoax or Real-Life Alien Research Base?

42 **Magic & Lore**
Blood Magic

44 **Personal Experiences: Paranormal Encounters**
Dogman vs. Werewolf: Similar Cryptids With a Big Difference (Part 2)

48 **Personal Experiences: Ghost Hunter Case Files**
The Merry Monk Pub Investigation

DEPARTMENTS

4 **Contributors**
6 **Publisher's Letter**
7 **Calendar of Events**
8 **Paranormal News**

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Winter has been an occultist and paranormal researcher for nearly 20 years. She has been published repeatedly since 2009 and has also been the subject of interviews regarding both areas of expertise.

Writing and witchcraft have always remained close to Winter's heart, feeling both require a profound understanding of one's self and environment. When she's not exploring the macabre and bizarre, Winter enjoys reading tarot, as well as writing poetry and short stories. All of her work can be viewed on her Website.

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ERIN COUCH

Erin is a journalism student at the University of Cincinnati, where she works as a copy editor for UC's student newspaper, *The News Record*. She has been writing arts and entertainment pieces since January 2016 at *The News Record*, but she took a keen interest in subjects involving the obscure and supernatural in the past year.

She has tackled subjects on various aspects of Cincinnati culture, including art galleries, local music, and coffee culture. Of late, she has extended her research and writing repertoire into various oddities, like the paranormal scene in Cincinnati, local taxidermists, and witchcraft.

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Alan is a writer of paranormal romances and other works. In his books, he mixes human relationships with plots involving the supernatural world and magic. Alan is a blogger and a journalist. "I try to be the best mess I can be and help others to do the same, because there will never be enough freaks in this world."

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Karen holds a bachelor's and master's in metaphysical science from the University of Metaphysics, as well as a Ph.D. in metaphysical parapsychology from the University of Sedona. She is an ordained minister/metaphysical practitioner with the International Metaphysical Ministry and a Usui Reiki Master/Teacher. She has completed courses in energy healing, including quantum touch, crystal healing, sound healing, and aromatherapy.

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Willie is a shaman and supernatural consultant. He works by himself, as well as with his wife, Schmon. He belongs to the Paranormal Clergy and Dominion Ministries. Willie is the author of two books detailing his 50-year journey in the paranormal, *The Shaman Windwalker* and *Soul Warriors*.

Willie has appeared on A&E's *Cursed: The Bell Witch* and CMTs *Most Shocking Ghosts*. He also hosted his own public access show in Louisville, Kentucky, for 12 years, called *Spiritual Gifts and Wonders*. He also has his own group of sensitives, called Soul Warriors, who are based all over the US.

RICK E. HALE

A Chicago native, Rick is the founder of The Committee for Psychical Inquiry and the author of the *Geek's Guide to the Strange & Unusual*. He was the host of *Common Sense Paranormal Radio* and *Paranormal Underground Radio*.

As an investigator, Rick considers himself to be a Modern Traditionalist, meaning he believes in melding the new and old schools of psychical research.

http://thegeeksguide.weebly.com/

ELAINE KELLY

Elaine founded Spectre Detectors in 2010. Currently, the group is mainly made up of psychic mediums. Its aim, along with catching evidence of spirit, is to teach people that investigating isn't frightening if done respectfully and with honest intention. A lot of the team's evidence can be seen on YouTube.

http://www.spectre-detectors.co.uk/

CHERYL KNIGHT-WILSON

Cheryl is editor-in-chief of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. She has more than 25 years of experience as a professional writer and editor and has published hundreds of articles on topics ranging from advanced technology to paranormal investigation.

Cheryl's previous magazine experience includes roles as senior and managing editor for several niche publications.

https://paranormalunderground.net/

MORGAN LINEBERRY

Morgan is a graduate from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro where she obtained a bachelor's degree in English. She has a normal day job and is not affiliated with any paranormal groups, Websites, or businesses.

She loves to write and maintains a healthy fascination with all things paranormal thanks to experiences with the unexplained that she has experienced throughout her life. Morgan knows a little bit about a lot of paranormal topics from research she has done throughout her life. She pledges to keep you up to date about what is going bump in the night via *Paranormal Underground's* monthly news column.

MICHELLE M. PILLOW

Michelle is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author writing in many fiction genres, including the Dragon-Shifter series *Dragon Lords* and *Captured by a Dragon-Shifter* and the mischievously magical *Warlocks MacGregor*. A skeptical believer, she has a fascination with anything paranormal.

Michelle loves to travel and try new things, whether it's a paranormal investigation of an old Vaudeville theater or climbing Mayan temples in Belize. She has a BGS in history/business with an English minor and a photography degree. She is the co-owner of www.TheRavenBooks.com.

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RAINBOW RADAELLI

Rainbow is a paranormal, abductee, and cryptid researcher along with her husband, Michael. She is an experiencer herself, dealing with paranormal phenomenon since childhood.

The silk road of life has led Rainbow in many directions: cowgirl, medicine woman, gypsy, belly dancer, and truthseeker. All directions have paralleled each other, finally coming together in Rainbows articles, research, and blogs.

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MARIA ANNA VAN DRIEL

Besides being a published author and a philosopher in physics/science with a master's in ancient alchemy, Maria Anna is also a medium with psychometric and remote viewing capabilities. She wrote The NWO, Their Thoughts ... Your Life: It's Time to Wake Up, We Are the Illusion!; Our Mind in a Controlled Quantum Euclidean Space?: Natural and Unnatural Energies as a Global Weapon for Mind and Behavior Control; and The Source of Immortality: The Global Elite and Their Fountain of Youth.

Over the past 20 years, Maria Anna has spoken to people with stories to tell in order to get to the details of strange and remarkable secrets and phenomena.

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KRYSTLE VERMES

Krystle is a long-time paranormal enthusiast and professional writer with a bachelor's degree in print journalism. When she isn't composing pieces for her own paranormal blog, GetSpooked.net, she's recording her popular podcast, *All Day Paranormal*.

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CHAD WILSON

A freelance writer, Chad is the publisher of *Paranormal Underground* magazine and co-producer of *Paranormal Underground Radio*. His interest in the paranormal led to the creation of www.ParanormalUnderground.net.

Chad has investigated with East Tennessee Paranormal Research Society and counts Waverly Hills Sanatorium, the Villisca Axe Murder House, Bobby Mackey's Music World, the Queen Mary, Queen Anne Hotel, Hotel Alex Johnson, and private residences among his investigations.

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Do you have a dream you would like to have interpreted in Paranormal Underground magazine?

Email editor@paranormalunderground.net with a detailed description of your dream, and we will interpret it for you and possibly publish it in an upcoming magazine.

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Facing Fears at the Heart of 'It'

"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown."

—H. P. Lovecraft

For those who love paranormal/horror movies, I have a recommendation for you. See the movie *It* (2017), based on Stephen King's 1986 novel.

Chad Wilson, Publisher

Directed by Andy Muschietti, known for his work on horror thriller *Mama* (2013), *It* is a well-made movie with a cast of young actors who really make you believe they are battling a shapeshifting demon clown.

The special effects are not overdone, the creep factor is off the charts, and the movie's pace perfectly sets the stage for its climactic end. So is the movie actually scary? I think the film does a great job of building tension, but it never goes overboard when it comes to the scare factor.

The movie is modest in its jump scares, which is a quality I like in a horror/paranormal movie. And, while the movie is downright eerie, it also infuses humor along the way, especially from a few of the child stars, including Finn Wolfhard (you may recognize him from the TV series *Stranger Things*) and Jack Dylan Grazer (currently starring in the TV show *Me, Myself and I*).

All of the young actors who played the various members of the "Losers' Club" did an outstanding job, which is no small feat as they basically carry the entire film. Unlike the two-part TV miniseries in 1990, called *Stephen King's It*, the new *It* movie focuses solely on the main characters as children (instead of moving between flashbacks), making the movie feel like a cohesive story instead of jumping around from past to present, as the miniseries did.

I also enjoyed the actor who played Pennywise the Dancing Clown in the new movie, Bill Skarsgard (from the *Hemlock Grove* TV series, 2013-2015). And while Tim Curry (from the TV miniseries) will always have a place in my heart as the original Pennywise, I think Skarsgard added enough to the role to make it his own.

More than being a horror movie, *It* is a story about overcoming your own fears. And while the storyline centers on the depredations of Pennywise, it weaves in and out of what is happening in the lives of the various characters, helping to define their life struggles — in addition to dealing with a real horror that is feeding upon the town's citizens.

I think *It* has a vast appeal to a variety of different movie-going personalities. Never going overboard when it comes to the scares, the movie presents a well-told story that will have you cheering along as the story's heroes fight their own fears while attempting to defeat the movie's antagonist and hopefully survive.

It is one of a few movies I've seen in recent years where, as the credits rolled at the end, I found myself wanting more. I guess it's a good thing that we can expect *It: Chapter Two* to hit theaters in 2019.◆

October 6–7
Texas Bigfoot Conference
Jefferson Tourism and Visitor Center
Jefferson, Texas
https://www.facebook.com/events/511211039085232/

October 6–7
Virginia Bigfoot Conference
Waldo Miles Retreat
Bristol, Virginia
http://www.vabigfootconference.com/

October 6-7
Greater New England UFO Conference
Leominster City Hall Auditorium
Leominster, Massachusetts
http://susantom.com/ufo.html

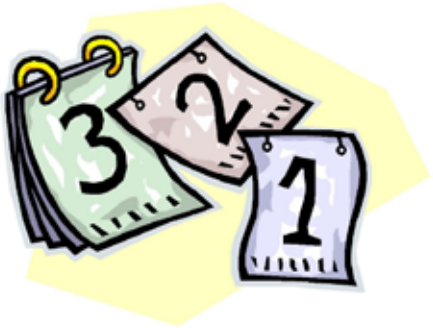
October 6–8
Chicago Ghost Con
Portage Theater
Chicago, Illinois
http://www.chicagoghosts.com/conference.html

October 7
East Coast Para Con
Hilton Hotel and Conference Center
Scranton, Pennsylvania
http://www.eastcoastparacon.com/

October 13–14
Little Traverse Bay Parafest
Terrace Inn
Petoskey, Michigan
www.ltbparafest.com

October 13–14
Chautauqua Lake Bigfoot Expo
YMCA Camp Onyahsa
Dewittville, New York
http://www.chautauqualakebigfootexpo.com/

October 14
Albatwitch Day
200 block of Locust St.
Columbia, Pennsylvania
https://columbiahistory.net/2016-albatwitch-day/



October 20–22
Creature Weekend
Salt Fork State Park
Cambridge, Ohio
http://www.creatureweekend.com/

October 27–28
MUFON Philadelphia Area UFO Conference
Sheraton Bucks County Hotel
Langhorne, Pennsylvania
http://mufonpa.com/wp1/?page_id=599

October 27–29
Haunted Bourbon
Hilton Garden Inn Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana
http://www.hauntedbourbon.com/

November 4
MUFON Pittsburgh Area UFO Conference
Bishop Connare State Police Training Center
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
http://mufonpa.com/wp1/?page_id=929

November 4–5
Central PA-ranormal Convention
Pajama Factory
Williamsport, Pennsylvania
http://centralparacon.weebly.com/

November 8–13
Mysteries Cruise
Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
http://www.mysteriescruise.com/

E-mail your paranormal event to editor@paranormalunderground.net. ◆

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POST-ECLIPSE PARANORMAL PARANOIA

By Morgan Lineberry

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE (AGAIN)

The August 21 solar eclipse may have passed, but the doomsday paranoia that accompanies any such event lives on. Or as Chuck Campbell of *USA Today* so poetically said, "Enjoy that Aug. 21 eclipse while you can, because it will be one of the last things you ever see." Granted, he did give this small disclaimer: "That is, if Christian numerologist/doomsayer David Meade is right." Are they ever right, Chuck? That is the real question.

See, Meade has this book called *Planet X — The 2017 Arrival*, and in it he claims that Planet X, also known as Nibiru, is currently "on a rogue path heading for Earth." So, when are we due to die this time? September 23 — precisely 33 days after the eclipse. And here I thought all I needed to protect myself was a pair of special solar glasses!

It is important to note that no such planet has been officially (or unofficially) found by anyone, and let's be honest, the world has been due to end for a while now, so I would not panic if I were you on September 23 or beyond.

The creature in the next news story obviously isn't panicking, and while the eclipse will probably not bring about the Earth's destruction, it did bring out some interesting characters ...

MOTHMAN MAKES A COMEBACK

Most of us have heard of the Mothman, a large flying, humanoid creature that is said to make his home around Chicago. But where on Earth has he been (literally)? Perhaps I missed something, but he seems to have been lying low for a while. He never writes, never calls ... just disappears into his moth cave.

Well, it seems he emerged to stretch his wings around August 21 and 22. Here is one of the many sightings reported to *The Singular Fortean Society*:

> *I saw what looked like a human-shaped shadow from the mid-torso up in the window. As soon as I turned to look, the shadow moved unnaturally fast to the left and up out of sight; its movements gave the impression it was taking off to fly. It looked like it used the wall of my building to jump up and away. The shadow was dark gray when it moved; its body was large enough to block a substantial*

amount of light, giving me the impression it was long/tall.

Here is another:

I have been hearing about the 'flying moth man' for a while now but was skeptical about its existence. I just assumed that someone was playing a joke and that the photos that I saw online were photoshopped. Until today. I was driving down S. Pulaski at around 4:55 p.m., right before 55th Street ... and saw it soar right over the Shell gas station! It was really fast, and I couldn't get a photo because it disappeared before [I] got to the light.

People of Chicago, look out. While it appears Mothman did not make an appearance on September 23 to get a look at Planet X, he's bound to reappear. (So next time, have your cameras ready!) But hold on, because Mothman isn't the only being to make a solar eclipse appearance. Read on ...

GHOST OR ALIEN — YOU TELL ME

The eclipse has been said to give power to some interdimensional creatures and otherworldly beings, such as this ... thing, which appeared a day after the eclipse in New Mexico. It is difficult for me to decide if this is a spirit (as the family believes), an alien, or something entirely different. But whatever it is, this creature seems to want to be seen. In the video screencap below, the "being" is circled in red.

Perhaps the eclipse allowed it such an opportunity, or perhaps it has been there and the family has somehow missed it before. Either way, there was no missing it on this video (http://www.disclose.tv/news/otherwordly_being_caught_on_familys_surveillance_camera_august_22_2017/140079)! As Lukas Magnuson of Disclose TV explains, "A family living in Clovis, New Mexico, managed to capture more than they bargained for on their home security camera. While having dinner on Tuesday evening, they saw a guest that was unexpected walk across their driveway on the security camera installed. However, it was not a normal guest, it was a ghost."

In the video, one can clearly see a humanoid spectral ... something casually walking across the family's driveway. The spirit/creature appears on the left side of the screen, walks across, and disappears on the right side. Perhaps this is some sort of interdimensional practical joke, but I would not fault the family if they decided to double check their back seats before they pulled out of their driveway next time.

UFO DRIVE-IN

And, finally, a string of UFOs made an appearance in Phoenix, Arizona, a few days before the eclipse. The video (here: http://midnightinthedesert.com/alleged-video-mass-ufo-sighting-took-place-phoenix-2017/) leaves no room for claiming these as commercial aircrafts or the infamous weather balloons that generally get blamed for UFO sightings.

This report from *Midnight in the Desert* explains, "In this sighting you will see 5 crafts in the sky in a 'W' like formation. They then move around the sky and then the video abruptly ends." I'm not sure what causes the video to come to such a sudden stop. Perhaps some sort of interference or the person shooting thought it was a better idea to get out of there.

It does leave us to wonder if these beings know more than we do. Could they be trying to warn us. One thought I immediately had was that the "W" could actually be a 3, signifying the 33 days we are supposed to have from the time of the eclipse to the time we were supposed to be crushed by Planet X on September 23.

However, this also makes me wonder if aliens zoom around to different planets and watch eclipses like we drive to concerts and movies. ◆

BORN AWARE

DIANE BRANDON'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

By Cheryl Knight

An avid student of metaphysics for more than 45 years, Diane Brandon has been "born aware" — spiritually aware — since birth.

Today, she is an integrative intuitive counselor and intuition teacher, specializing in personal path/growth and dream interpretation. She teaches others how to access intuitive information on demand. She also teaches classes and seminars on dreams, personal empowerment, creativity, and listening skills, in addition to wellness classes.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Diane earned a bachelor's degree in French from Duke University; did master's work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in radio, television, and motion pictures; and attended TUTOR, a language institute in Geneva, Switzerland, for French studies.

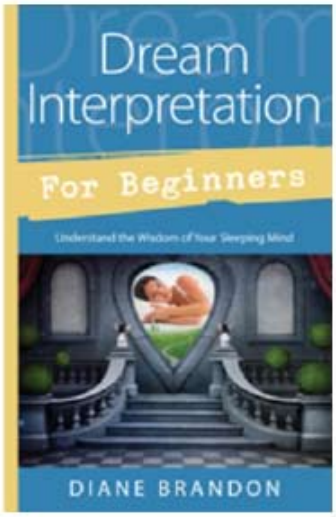
Diane has facilitated a seminar on business intuition at the Rhine Research Center, in addition to speaking on dreams there, and has spoken on intuition at the Mensa Annual Gathering.

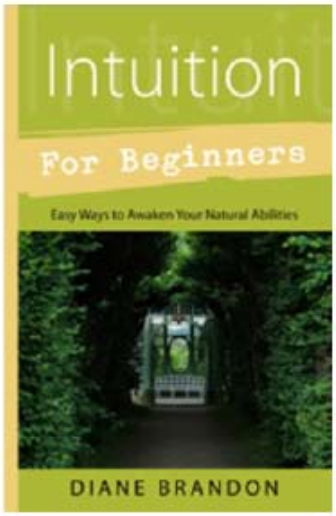
She's the author of the new book *Born Aware — Stories and Insights from Those Spiritually Aware Since Birth*. She is also the author of *Dream Interpretation for Beginners — Understand the Wisdom of Your Sleeping Mind*; *Intuition for Beginners — Easy Ways to Awaken Your Natural Abilities*; and *Invisible Blueprints: Intuitive Insights for Fulfillment*.

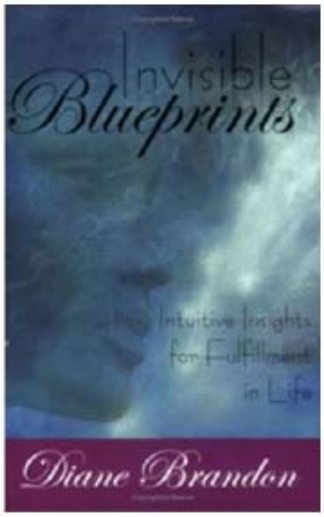
Diane recently spoke with *Paranormal Underground* magazine about her new book and the born aware phenomenon.

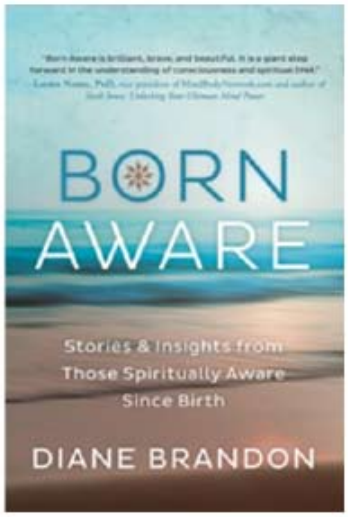
* * * * *

Intuitive counselor and teacher Diane Brandon has studied metaphysics for more than four decades. She has worked with others as an Integrative Intuitive Counselor since 1992. She has been a member of Intelligentsia Metaphysical, Mensa, and the Institute of Noetic Sciences.









Diane Brandon's work in the metaphysical field focuses on intuition, dream interpretation, and the "born aware" phenomenon.

Q: You've written about a wide range of topics, ranging from intuition to dream interpretation to spiritual awareness. Your most recent book out is called *Born Aware — Stories & Insights from Those Spiritually Aware Since Birth*. What is the "born aware" phenomenon?

Diane: I have always remembered what I thought when I was born — thoughts such as not wanting to be here again, remembering my spiritual connection on the other side before coming here, etc. This is what I call the "born aware" phenomenon. We could also call it "spiritually aware since birth."

There are people who have always remembered their thoughts and perceptions when they were born. For some of us, the thoughts and perceptions are spiritual in nature; for example, that being here is temporary, that we come from the other side, that there's a purpose we've come in to accomplish, etc. For other people, the thoughts and perceptions may be there and remembered but are not necessarily spiritual ones.

> "THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALWAYS REMEMBERED THEIR THOUGHTS AND PERCEPTIONS WHEN THEY WERE BORN."

I'm using the term *born aware* to refer to the former phenomenon, which includes spiritual awareness, thoughts, and perceptions at birth.

Q: How is being "born aware" different than when individuals recover early memories through hypnosis or regression?

Diane: I feel that it's quite different. Those of us born aware were in what I call our "higher soul awareness" when we were born. The higher soul awareness is the type of awareness or consciousness that we have on the other side before coming here. It is a very different type of consciousness than that of a human being.

Those of us born aware tend to be hybrids, as we have those two distinct types of consciousness — the higher soul awareness and the one from the human persona — and we tend to flit back and forth between those two distinctly different types of consciousness and orientations. When people are regressed in order to recover their early memories, they are typically in their human persona/orientation and may or may not succeed in retrieving not just the memories, but also in accessing their higher soul awareness and having those perceptions while in their higher soul awareness. So this may yield a partial result. If it's easy for them to get into their higher soul awareness when regressed, it would yield more complete results.

Q: What about those people who feel spiritually oriented from early in life? Is that different than being born aware?

Diane: Yes, I feel that it is. There are many, many innately spiritually oriented people on this planet, and they help to soften the energy on this level (on this planet). The difference I would say lies in the degree to which one remembers the other side and is in the higher soul awareness. Those who are innately spiritually oriented tend to have somewhat of a "veil" over their awareness and memories, whereas those of us born aware have clear awareness and memories.

To use an analogy, it's like going to visit a different planet where the language, consciousness, and customs are vastly different. When those of us born aware go to

→

In addition to Diane's work as an intuitive counselor and teacher, she is a corporate consultant, actor, singer, voice-over artist, and voice teacher.

this other planet, we are still in the consciousness of where we came from. We still have that language and consciousness and have to "contort" ourselves to adapt to the type of consciousness and ways on the new planet — but we never fully adapt or lose all of our memories or consciousness, even after we learn the language and customs of that foreign planet. (We tend not to remember everything from that first planet but retain enough to know the differences.)

We tend to know where we came from and know that it's our true home and that we're on the foreign planet only temporarily, while also knowing that the foreign planet pales in comparison to our true home.

For those who are innately spiritually oriented, they arrive at that foreign planet with no memories of where they came from and having "lost" to some degree their former consciousness (e.g., the higher soul awareness). They have a vague awareness or knowing that this new planet feels foreign and not right. They may feel that they're in the wrong place and with the wrong people, but not know why — until they are exposed to spiritual material.

They then tend to immediately feel a resonance with the spiritual material and a sense of "that's what I was looking for." They may then try to seek out spiritual information and ways to get back to what they knew before they went to the strange planet and grow more and more in their awareness, always trying to find ways to recapture what they used to know. However, it's still different from what the born awares experience.

The born awares know that our true home is the other side and that is our primary orientation, which we never lose, while those innately spiritually oriented may be looking at the other side from the perspective of being here and the human consciousness.

This is a generalization, but I feel it may help to point out the differences.

Q: What about those who say there's no awareness at birth because the brain has not developed sufficiently?

Diane: This comes from the empirical and materialistic view of scientists who believe that consciousness is solely a product of the brain and does not exist separate from it. Those of us born aware, however, know that consciousness definitely exists separate from the brain. We remember being souls on the other side, where we had an awareness and consciousness.

Moreover, we know that we're here temporarily and our true "home" and orientation are to the other side. (We're strangers in a strange land here.) We also know that once we "shuffle off this mortal coil" and leave here, we'll still have our consciousness (the higher soul awareness) and will just have sloughed off the false external casing of the physical body and its corresponding human persona and awareness.

Q: You were born aware. What do you remember?

Diane: Yes, I confess! I was indeed. I remember thinking that I didn't want to be here again. I remembered being with God/Spirit/Source on the other side and knew that I wasn't with God/Source/Spirit while here. And that was dismaying to me because I knew I would feel more of a separation while here and less immediacy. I also knew

> "I knew that on other side I had access to absolute knowledge but didn't while I was here — and that aggravated me."

that on other side I had access to absolute knowledge but didn't while I was here — and that aggravated me. I really wanted my access to all-knowing back. However, I knew that I had to be here because there was something I was supposed to do (which I thought then had to do with performing).

My memory of the other side and being with God/Source/Spirit is the overarching truth of my life, and it has never waned. I still feel the connection (almost like a tether or connecting cord or umbilical cord), even while I know that I'm not in the actual "presence" while here. It's a pale shadow of what it is on the other side.

Q: Why are some people born aware but others are not?

Diane: I feel that those of us born aware are allowed to be this way or are supposed to be this way because of what this phenomenon can teach to others. (And I must add that I'm sure we're not necessarily born awares in other lifetimes. We're born aware in this one, but it doesn't necessarily extend to other lifetimes.) It feels as if it's some sort of assignment for teaching purposes.

Q: So, does that mean personality is already developed at birth?

Diane: No, I don't feel so. I feel that it's complicated. We have our higher soul awareness, which is the awareness of the soul and not the same thing as any human personality that we may have, and that higher soul awareness is already there at birth (even though it may not be as full-blown as it is when we're on the other side and not in a body). (We tend to drop the human persona of that lifetime after we transition and then get into our higher soul awareness. We also have a different human persona/personality from one lifetime to another.)

The personality tends to develop more after birth, although I feel that our natal chart is an energetic imprint for who we are to be in a lifetime and what we are to experience for growth purposes. So the seed for the personality is there at birth (if that makes sense), and the higher soul awareness, which already existed before coming here and is permanent, transcends the human personality, which is temporary, and contains it (along with personalities from our other lifetimes).

Q: What types of things do people who are born aware remember?

Diane: The types of at-birth perceptions and memories can include the awareness that we are here temporarily, that there's a template for our lives here, of excessively bright lights and cold temperatures in the delivery room, of feeling weighed down by the new physical body, of recognizing soul connections of some in the delivery room, of not liking being here, of being taken home from the hospital, of one's eyes not being protected from the sun, etc.

The thoughts and perceptions tend to vary from one born aware to another.

Q: Does this include having memories of the other side?

Diane: Most born awares remember the other side to varying degrees of clarity or haziness. Memories of the other side can include being an angel on the other side, how wonderful the other side is, choosing parents or being guided in doing so, going to other planets under the care of guides for training, being with God/Spirit/Source, the first heartbeat of their embryo, that we are interconnected with everyone and everything there, that we have access to absolute knowledge there, of being directed by God/Spirit to do things, of studying and learning, etc. There's great variability in what we remember.

Q: Do those who are born aware have any direct memories of a deity or God?

Diane: Yes, I do, which has been very strong for me and a predominant truth of my life. And others do as well. I hasten to add, though, that God/Spirit is not in a physical form (which would be inherently limiting).

Q: How common is being born aware?

Diane: At this point I'm not really sure. I feel that it's very rare, although I've been told that there are more babies being born now who are. I had a really challenging time finding people to interview for the book, especially given that I know a lot of spiritual practitioners. Most of those I approached, though, did not have these memories.

Some of the people in the book had never known anyone else with these memories, but I discovered while looking for people that five people I've known for years have these memories. My sense is that I was "given" this, perhaps to lay the groundwork for the book, even though I didn't know until recently that they had these memories. I may get more information on how rare it is as I continue

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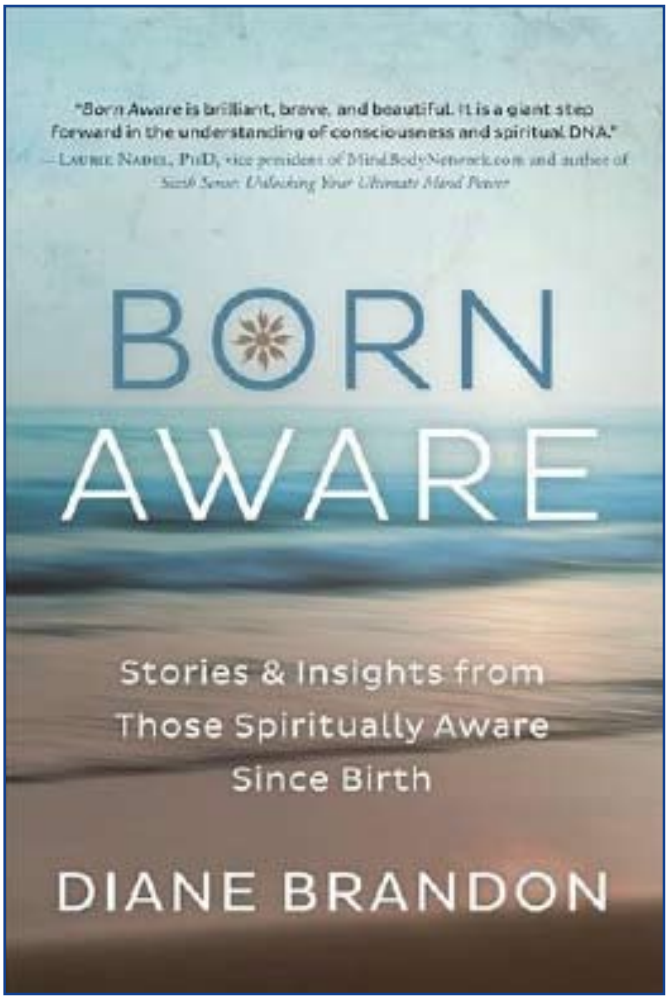

"Born Aware is brilliant, brave, and beautiful. It is a giant step forward in the understanding of consciousness and spiritual DNA."
BORN
AWARE
Stories & Insights from
Those Spiritually Aware
Since Birth
DIANE BRANDON

In *Born Aware*, Diane chronicles her experiences and efforts to find and learn from others who have been spiritually aware since birth.

to do research. If I had to quantify it as this point, I would say that it's probably less than one percent.

Q: Are there any particular traits or characteristics that go along with being spiritually aware since birth?

Diane: Yes, there are several attributes that those of us spiritually aware since birth have in common, at least for those I interviewed for my book, including retaining a pure heart and innate innocence, being strongly ethical and having integrity and not being willing to betray those, retaining a direct spiritual connection, knowing that we're here temporarily, feeling protected and guided throughout our lives, being in our higher soul awareness at birth and flitting back and forth between it and our human side, strong sensitivity, remembering some past lives, feeling different from others, being naturally intuitive and with healing energy, a love of animals and nature, a tendency to be observers, a strong need for alone time on a regular basis, being humble and genuine, introspective, having independent minds, being whole brain, having inner resilience, less prone to conflict with others, a preference for meaningful conversations and less tolerance for idle or superficial chit-chat, etc. The number of attributes we have in common feels quite striking to me.

Q: Are there differences among those born aware?

Diane: Yes, there are! There's variability in what we remember from the other side, what our spiritual connection and orientation is to on the other side, whether we wanted to incarnate or looked forward to being here or not, varying tolerance or intolerance of organized religion, varying life experiences here (e.g., whether we were abused or not, socioeconomic level of family, being ridiculed for our memories or not, etc.), awareness of what our purpose is or not, differing perceptual modes and spiritual experiences (such as forms of intuition, ET contact or not, NDEs or not, etc.), etc.

Q: What is what you call the higher soul awareness, and does it have any advantages?

Diane: What I call the higher soul awareness (or HSA) is the type of awareness or consciousness we have as pure souls on the other side. Those of us born aware are in our HSA when we were born and carry it through our lives. It's our "home" or default awareness. The HSA is different from our human side or human persona/personality.

If I were to try to describe it (which I do in the book), it's an awareness that is very clear, objective, and mature, as well as transcendent and pure. It exists on a higher level and perceives from that higher perspective and orientation, as opposed to the very limited perspective and orientation of our human persona, which is quite narrow and restrictive. (Our human perspective and orientation are very limited and limiting, like being encased in a box and seeing from one limited perspective.)

The HSA is very centered in the now or present and lacks the background noise and mental chatter of the human awareness. It's very present and tends not to waver.

I feel that it has several advantages. First and foremost, it's very spiritual. So if one is spiritual or into spirituality, being able to groom the HSA brings us a spiritual feeling and orientation. It gives us a perspective and information that we typically can't get from our human perspective, along with many spiritual insights and understanding. It tends to see the overview and spiritual reasons and purposes for events and things on this level.

Q: Would we have to have been born aware to get into the HSA?

Diane: I would hope not! I feel that we can try to groom it, and I have several recommendations in the book for readers to try to groom it. I also have a meditation in the book to access it.

I feel that at the present time in the world, this may be one of the purposes of the born aware phenomenon becoming better known, so that more people can get into their HSA and perceive from that higher vantage point, as well as begin to perceive and feel the inter-connectedness of everyone and everything.)

Q: Is there anything you would like to say to others who were born aware?

Diane: First of all, you're not alone. Born awares may be rare, but I feel that we're sprinkled throughout this planet. Try to seek out others who have also been spiritually aware since birth and connect with them. Share your memories and your insights with them. Some of the born awares in my book actually had more insights just as a result of being able to share their experiences and memories with me.

The more you realize and know the validity of your memories and experiences, the more you're giving yourself permission to allow your memories to come up. Likewise with your spiritual insights. Know that your experience is valid and that it's one of your spiritual strengths while you're here on the planet and that you're born aware for a reason and purpose. Look for ways to share all of it with others, in both a sharing and teaching fashion (although, of course, without being intrusive or telling others what to do). There's purpose to this information coming out now. We can all be part of shifting awareness on this level, and we have spiritual work to do.

Q: What's most important for our listeners to know about your work in metaphysics?

Diane: I seem to be a natural facilitator and teacher and am attuned to who people are on the inside, what their true essence is, and how they can move forward, develop their potential, open up and develop more spiritually, align themselves more with their purpose, and find more fulfillment in life.

To this end, I do private one-on-one sessions/consultations and teach and mentor others in both classes and private one-on-one lessons and sessions. I help others find and develop some of the riches and treasure they have on the inside. I use my intuition, which stems from my direct connection to Source, along with other modalities, such as individualized guided meditation, dream interpretation and dream work, regression, customized exercises, Natural Process healing, and others.

I believe in working with others where they are at that time and who they are as unique individuals. So I never do any generalized, one-size-fits-all work. The information I receive and any recommendations are highly individual, and I always want to facilitate and provide insight without being intrusive or controlling. And I've been fortunate to have received wonderfully positive feedback from many clients over the years.

> "Born awares may be rare, but I feel that we're sprinkled throughout this planet."

Q: Do you have any new books currently in the works?

Diane: Well, I will be writing a follow-up book to *Born Aware* and have found more people with these memories to interview. However, I'm writing a different book first. The working title of the one I'm writing now is *Embracing Essence*, and it's about doing our personal work so that we can embrace who we really are on the inside (our essence for the present lifetime) and clear some of that inauthentic stuff.

It contains information and exercises that were "given" to me in 1996 via a "download." I have always loved to sleep, because I'm not here when I'm sleeping. One night in 1996, I was awakened around 3:00 a.m. and couldn't get back to sleep. I wasn't happy about having my sleep disturbed, but in the next three to four hours while I was trying to get back to sleep, all this information came in.

Over the next few weeks, I shaped it into exercises. Aside from writing one article with some of the information in it and teaching one workshop on it, I haven't used the information. So I feel it's probably time.

Q: Tell our listeners about where they can find your books and where they can find you online.

Diane: My books are available online and in bookstores (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, new age stores, etc.). The only exception is my book *Invisible Blueprints*, which is only available on Amazon and through my Website, which is www.dianebrandon.com.

My Website contains a lot of information, including information on my books, my contact information, and upcoming classes. In order to book an appointment with me, people can e-mail me (at diane@dianebrandon.com) or call me to schedule a time. I also am on Twitter and have a page on Facebook, as well as a dream group on Facebook (Your Dream World).◆

CERN's ATLAS Experiment: More than just science!

By Maria Anna van Driel, www.nexttruth.com

This past July, I visited the European Organization for Nuclear Research (also known as CERN) in Switzerland. The physicists at CERN are asking questions such as what is the Universe made of and how did it start? And to find answers, they are using some of the world's most powerful particle accelerators, including the Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

While originally established in 1954, CERN scientists and researchers have made some recent significant discoveries. In fact, five years have gone by since physicists at CERN reported the existence of the Higgs boson (an elementary particle in the Standard Model of particle physics) using the ATLAS detector at the LHC. The discovery of this particle, a subatomic particle that was long thought to be a fundamental building block of the Universe, proves that we are still discovering unseen parts of our universe.

After the discovery, the LHC was shut down for two full years for maintenance and consolidation. But, CERN's physicists and engineers did not pack up their gear and go home. In fact, the LHC, the most powerful manmade machine, is just getting warmed up.

My visit to CERN focused on research and experiments going on to find other dimensions and create artificial time tunnels (wormholes). During my visit, I was able to speak with physics professor and Ph.D. Bill Murray, whose involvement at CERN includes understanding the interactions and properties of the Higgs boson using the ATLAS detector at the LHC. He also searches for new physics, especially dark matter.

Dr. Murray was the ATLAS Higgs convener from 2009 until 2011, physics coordinator from 2012 until 2014, and was right in the center of the Higgs discovery in July 2012. Most of his career, Dr. Murray was a researcher at the Rutherford Lab in Oxfordshire, and in 2013 he became a professor at Warwick University, where he now teaches half time. A physics degree also led Dr. Bill Murray to a Ph.D. position in Cambridge on the OPAL experiment at CERN.

Dr. Bill Murray's involvement at CERN includes understanding the interactions and properties of the Higgs boson using the ATLAS detector. He also searches for new physics, especially dark matter.

Please continue reading to find out more about some of the advanced ideas CERN scientists have, details surrounding the ATLAS experiment, and Dr. Murray's personal experience around the discovery of the Higgs boson. Brilliant scientists are open minded, so why not you?

* * * * *

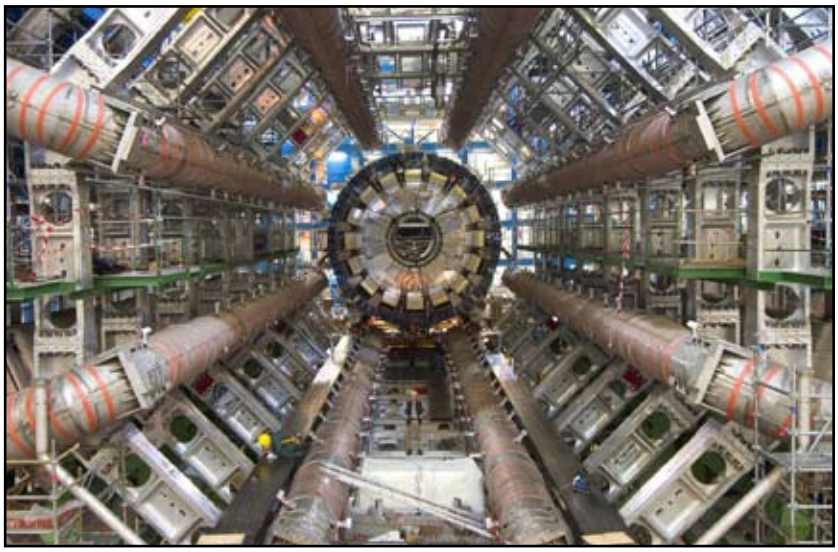
Q: As a professor at Warwick University and a Ph.D. in particle and new physics, you explore the secrets of the Universe. What inspired you to step into this world?

Dr. Murray: That's actually a hard one. I always found the ideas of particle physics, built on those two great pillars

of quantum mechanics and relativity, fascinating, even at school. But, ultimately, it is the simplicity of the subject that appeals — you are exploring nature in one of the most fundamental ways, finding the building blocks of which the Universe is made and the interactions between them. That and the fact you do not have to write long essays. ;)

Q: As a child, we all have big dreams and deep wishes of what we want to become as an adult. Was it always your dream to become a physicist?

Dr. Murray: Yup, I am afraid so. At school I was sure I wanted to do research; the only question was if it would be fusion power or particle physics.



Pictured above is the ATLAS Calorimeter, which was built by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (also known as CERN) to measure particle energies produced when protons collide in the center of the detector. (Photo by Maximilien Brice via Wikimedia Commons)

Q: You have a great interest for the research into the understanding of the interactions and properties of the Higgs boson using the ATLAS detector at LHC, as well as searching for new physics, especially dark matter. Were you personally present /involved when the Higgs boson was found in 2012?

Dr. Murray: Yes, I was right in the center of the Higgs discovery.

Q: The discovery of the Higgs boson is a triumph of human intellect! Can you describe what happened in that moment when the Higgs was discovered, as well as your personal feelings during this euphoric moment?

Dr. Murray: In 2011, as we started to see evidence. I was Higgs convener, which gave me a perfect and clear overview of the different channels. Many people were working hard on their corner and didn't have time to see the whole picture. Many different search strategies were being employed at once, and as most of them drew a blank, they narrowed down the remaining region where the particle could hide.

There was excitement at Easter, as early data seemed to show something far too easily ... but it quickly faded. Then in July 2011, a more credible signal seemed to emerge in the data ... only to be excluded in August.

Q: That had to give some frustrating feelings, searching for something that long but having it fade so quickly.

Dr. Murray: Yes it did. I had spent 15 years mostly on the Higgs search by then but always thought it was probably there.

In October 2011, I had to give a lecture at Edinburgh University in front of my mother ... and Professor Peter Higgs. Just at that moment it seemed as if we had searched almost everywhere it should be and found nothing. It's the only time I spoke on it with a sinking feeling in my stomach that we had got it all wrong, it didn't exist. But by December, more data came in, and we finally started to see what ultimately proved to be the real thing ... but we could not prove it yet.

Q: You almost missed all the excitement of the Higgs boson existence being proven.

Dr. Murray: On Friday, June 20, 2012, four days before the Higgs discovery seminar, I was at a meeting with about nine people, where ATLAS and CMS showed CERN management, and each other, their results at that point. It was electric ... we had heard rumors, how could we not, but we were the only people in the world that knew the results from the two experiments matched up perfectly.

On the big day the auditorium was heaving. I had a reserved seat; I walked confidently up to the door only about an hour early. (Some people had been queuing all night.) Then the security guard said he did not have my name on the list! Fortunately, a few people in the crowd helped, saying, 'You have to let Bill in; this must be a mistake," etc.

So I got my seat and had all the drama and excitement of seeing 48 years of study finally pay off.

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"Maybe one collision in the hundred thousand million is making dark matter. We don't know ... we are trying to find it. We haven't seen dark matter yet." —Dr. Bill Murray

Q: What inspired you to become involved with the ATLAS project?

Dr. Murray: Well, the LHC was clearly the right accelerator to build and work on. The high energies and collision rates meant we could explore a new regime, where the physics we knew broke down. We were guaranteed a discovery. But ATLAS and CMS are similar experiments ... it was a random chance that led me to one, not the other.

Q: Projects like ATLAS are widely discussed topics in which people all over the world speculate about the plausible possibilities of artificial-created time tunnels and the connection between past, present, and future and how it is affecting evolution. What is your opinion about such speculations?

Dr. Murray: I am much more open to radical speculation than many of my colleagues. We know there is much we do not know, and the discussion of discovering black holes or even time tunnels was not impossible — just rather unlikely.

When you are pushing beyond what is known, it is right to be excited. When you are claiming a discovery, it is right to be cautious.

Our best theory of quantum gravity, string theory, requires these extra dimensions. And even boring, old general relativity seems to allow time travel! But it has to be done responsibly ... we should not conjure up an expectation of such things, just a faint possibility.

Q: According to CERN's Website, the ALICE experiment is freeing the quarks from their bonds with the gluons after melting protons and neutrons that create the Quark-Gluon-Plasma (QGP). Has there been a successful experiment in shooting highly charged electrons or quarks containing an artificial code in basic intelligent information through plasma like the QGP? And what was the result of this experiment?

Dr. Murray: The plasmas created are bizarre and wonderful ... more like a perfect liquid than a gas. Unfortunately, they evaporate almost immediately. However, yes, we do have the results of shooting both electron and quarks through the plasma.

There is no time for an external gun, but sometimes a pair of quarks or electrons is created, much as happens in proton collisions. This could happen at the middle of the plasma but sometimes happens at the edge, and we can measure the two outgoing particles. The interesting thing is that electrons pass through the plasma scarcely interacting, which we see from the equality of their momenta. But quarks do not — if one passes through a lot of plasma, it loses energy very rapidly, scarcely emerging from the other side. This very strong interaction with quarks was a real shock.

Q: Many science fiction movies are written around the idea of this strange liquid (plasma) and being used, in such movies, as galactic portals from one world to another. If such a time tunnel, created in electromagnetic plasma, would be possible and safe for humans to use, would you step through?

Dr. Murray: As I said, I am open to radical speculations, but this is rather remote from LHC physics. Any extra-dimensional effects created, which they have not been — :(— would have been on a subatomic scale.

Q: The projects ATLAS and CMS have a broad physics program containing the Higgs boson, the studies of heavy-ion collisions, the search for new particles, and extra dimensions in the Universe. What do these dimensions mean based on or characterized by the methods and principles of science?

Dr. Murray: Extra dimensions are an inescapable prediction of string theory, which is our best bet of a theory uniting gravity and quantum mechanics. String theory is frustrating for an experimental physicist, as it makes few testable predictions. But it does require a Higgs, supersymmetry, and an 11-dimensional world.

Q: So, why do we see 4D and 3D space and time?

Dr. Murray: Well, the normal hypothesis is that most of the space dimensions are 'curled up,' so a path in them quickly leads back to where it started. The normal analogy is an ant on a string: https://home.cern/about/physics/extra-dimensions-gravitons-and-tiny-black-holes.

Close up it's all 3D; from a distance, the only distance is how far along the string is from the ant. If the extra dimensions just describe short, circular paths, we don't see them ... you need a good resolution. And perhaps LHC, by having unequalled energy, will be able to access the short-range scale.

Q: What would we actually see?

Dr. Murray: Imaging a weight with a hole in it, threaded on a string ... if it is given some energy, it might just move down the string. That's normal behavior. But if it starts to spin round the string, then its speed will be reduced.

We will see it moving slowly; with lots of energy ... our equations of motion (which do not know it can rotate about the string) stop working. We call it missing energy; we look for it but have not seen it yet.

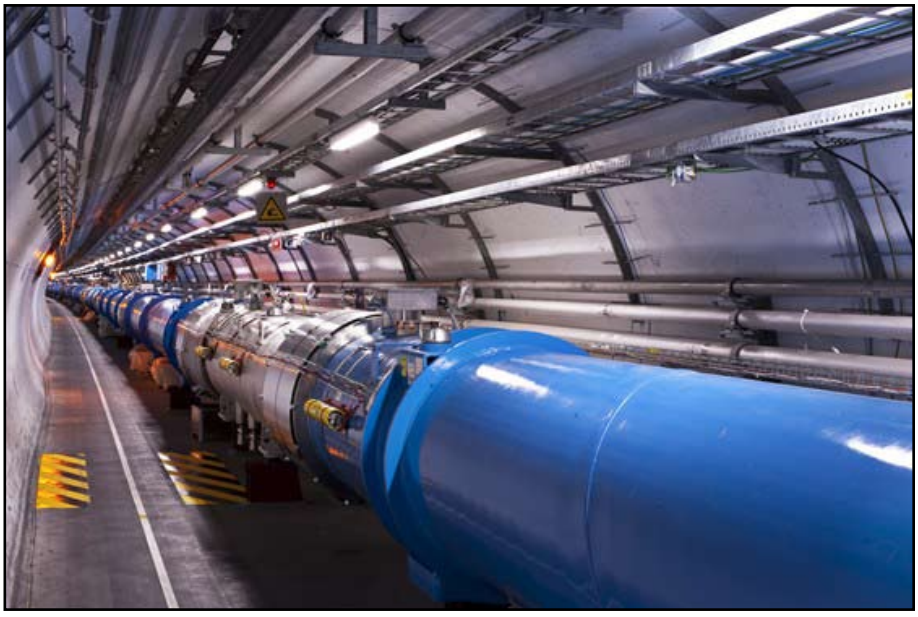
Q: Can you explain some of the advanced ideas or theories from scientists and maybe even reveal what has already been found in projects like ATLAS, CMS, and ALICE?

Dr. Murray: To me, the two biggest discoveries are the Higgs and the strong interaction of the gluons plasma, of which these I think you know. Mostly our searches draw a blank. But the four large experiments have published about 1,000 papers searching for new things: https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/AtlasPublic/WebHome#Recently_submitted_Papers.

Q: Is the Higgs and the QGP the only thing LHC is focusing on?

Dr. Murray: There are so many things LHC can study that there is always something where the results look a bit unexpected — just by statistical chance. One is drawing attention right now: decays of B mesons involving pairs of electrons, muons, and taus. In the standard model, there is a democracy here — other than some effects just due to greater mass, the rates of these should be equal. But there are persistent hints that they are not ... hints, I emphasize, not proofs.

Measurements of things called R(K), R(K*), or Bs K* mumu all seem to point to something unexpected. If it were true, it might be telling us about a new, previously unknown set of particles. But definitely a lot more data and careful analysis is needed.



Pictured above is a section of the Large Hadron Collider, which was built by CERN to test particle theory and search for answers to unsolved physics questions. (Photo by Maximilien Brice via Wikimedia Commons)

Q: During the tour at CERN, you explained how particles are shot in opposite directions through the pipes, which creates an enormous force between the tunnels, and how extremely strong magnets are being used to keep these particles in a strait orbit to create a clean collision. Is it possible that in this force, X-points or electromagnetic plasmas are created?

Dr. Murray: X-points I don't know, but EM plasmas we know are there. Normally, it is called 'electron cloud,' but it is a plasma. The charge of the beams can accelerate an electron toward the middle of the pipe, but the beams exit so fast that the electron ends up sailing on and colliding

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"The teleportation of the Eldridge? I don't think it happened. If it had really happened, the U.S. military would never have just hushed it up — they would have perfected it and then news would have leaked out." —Dr. Bill Murray

with the opposite wall — where it can liberate a few electrons, and the free charge starts to build up.

But it's really the result of the beam charge, not the magnetic field. It's a problem because the plasma then disrupts the beams, but fortunately it decreases with time ... the 'free' electrons are scrubbed out of the machine.

Q: Has there ever been an experiment in sending (intelligent) information absorbed by photon, for instance, through an artificial created (electromagnetic plasma) time tunnel?

Dr. Murray: Photons or quarks certainly contain information. That's how we transmit data around! Alas, we have never seen any hint of a time tunnel actually being created or extra dimensions so far, so we know of no other dimensional places to look at.

Q: According to MIT, normally massless photons can behave like a molecule due to a photonic interaction that's mediated by the atomic interaction. Can such a reaction be felt by a biological system, such as humans, as a local effect in endothermic or exothermic reactions?

Dr. Murray: The particles involved in high-energy interactions can interact with biological systems. Most of the interactions are through electromagnetism, especially at low (everyday) energies. But neutrons only interact with the strong force, and neutrinos only through the weak, and thus hardly do so at all. However, an individual particle will generally not be seen — the energy is too low. However, in bulk then yes; they could be felt.

Q: When an artificial (electro) magnetic field is created in which the vibrations are altered due to infra or ultrasound, is it possible that shadowy smudges having a human form due to reflection(s), as in holographic duality, can be seen (or recorded in any form) within this field?

Dr. Murray: Changing an EM field with sound vibrations is possible, but it would be really hard to have a significant effect. If you work with audio frequencies, (1KHz?), then you are talking about EM wavelengths of 30km — really low radio frequencies. If the frequency of the EM is way faster than the audio, then the atoms are effectively static, and, yes, there are effects like lensing, etc., that can be introduced.

I guess the biggest effect I can imagine would be to create density fluctuations in an acoustic wave and then observe that through the different lensing effects. So, yes, I guess you can make audio waves, or an impression of them, visible. But it would be a very small effect you would have to enhance in some way.

Q: After the 'Big Bang,' there was plasma present in the Universe in big amounts. Some people speculate that plasmas like these contained a form of intelligent information, as in basic survival for instance, that traveled from other solar systems. What is your personal opinion in this idea?

Dr. Murray: The formation of the Universe certainly seems to allow various possible condensations, different in different patches. The Higgs field could have condensed in different ways, for example. Could this affect the QGP? I expect so. These are isolated patches — in each one you see itself, but then there must be boundaries between regions. How those would work is very unclear.

I am afraid that's why I like lab experiments — you can see what you did and repeat it to see how results change.

Q: Is it possible for a manipulated QGP to create atoms, having the ability to evolve on its own by

using chemical reactions that can be found in the Earth's atmosphere? Or does it need a controlled surrounding for staying stable to create matter as we know it?

Dr. Murray: Ordinary plasma does not have the energy to make atoms — though a quark-gluon plasm does. The particles created by a QGP are pretty random. An evolution through chemical reactions will not happen until electrons bind to them, which is much slower than the evaporation of the plasma. So they are just ordinary hot atoms when the plasma is gone.

Within the plasma they behave in odd ways — the heavier cc states for example, which in vacuum exists, in a QGP melt away and are hardly seen. But even in vacuum these decay on 10-20s timescale.

> "... THE DISCUSSION OF DISCOVERING BLACK HOLES OR EVEN TIME-TUNNELS WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE — JUST RATHER UNLIKELY."

Q: We all know the story of the teleportation of the Navy destroyer escort USS Eldridge in 1943 and the claims that Albert Einstein personally mentored this bizarre experiment in order to test his unified field theory. Has such a reaction in particles ever been observed or measured at ATLAS?

Dr. Murray: The teleportation of the Eldridge? I don't think it happened. If it had really happened, the U.S. military would never have just hushed it up — they would have perfected it and then news would have leaked out.

Yes, ATLAS does see forces undergoing 'action at a distance.' For example, we observed photons produced when two lead nuclei just miss each other. These photon pairs emerge into the detector while the lead nuclei, not having touched, continue on their paths. However, it does all seem consistent with quantum field theory, imposing the speed of light as a limit on information flow.

Q: I have one more question for you that many people would like to see answered by a physics professor and Ph.D. such as yourself. Has proof ever been found by a CERN scientist of plasma behaving like intelligent lifeforms with the ability of evolving an intellect on its own?

Dr. Murray: To be honest, I don't even know of people are looking for it. The plasma evaporates rapidly. We know it has 'flow'; bits of it moving at different speeds as it explodes, but this seems to be driven by pressures as it was made. Each plasma is different and unique. But it seems to me there is no time for any 'intelligent structure' to evolve. Bang, it's there, it blows up, and is gone.

If you drop water on a very hot cooker, you get droplets sometimes that exist for a few seconds, insulated by a layer of steam so the main droplet does not touch the metal. Like that, the water dances and then bursts into a cloud of steam. I think the life of a QGP is like that — but speeded up 20 orders of magnitude.

* * * * *

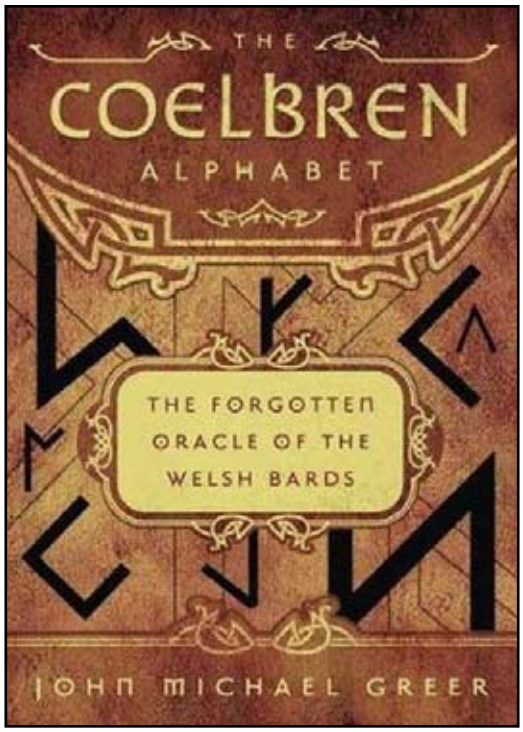
For more information about Dr. Murray, visit http://murray.web.cern.ch/murray/. ◆

'The Coelbren Alphabet': Book Review

By Alan D.D., tintanocturna.blogspot.com

The book *The Coelbren Alphabet: The Forgotten Oracle of the Welsh Bards*, by John Michael Greer, is one of those books you will devour quickly. I enjoyed every single chapter of this text, which is light, easy to understand, and written with a little humor here and there. The book is concise and to the point.

About the book: The Bardic runic alphabet, called Coelbren, was created by Welsh antiquarian, poet, collector, and literary forger Iolo Morganwg. In *The Coelbren Alphabet*, John Michael Greer reveals how this alphabet can be used as a magical tool.



The book contains scrying and meditation techniques, as well as tips for creating your own Coelbren set. Other topics explored include the history of Welsh culture and insight into their myths, society, and the way things worked in their time. Reading this book was an amazing learning process.

I do recommend that while Greer did a fine job writing about Welsh antiquarian, poet, collector, and literary forger Iolo Morganwg's life, you should have a little foreknowledge about Morganwg to not get lost in the amount of information presented. Not that it's impossible to go with the flow as you turn the pages, but it will certainly help you in the process.

Now, about the alphabet itself ... it is easier to use than any other method I can think of, and if you're into Celts, rejoice! This is the right book for you to explore divination, and you do not need to know anything on the subject before starting. If you're already familiar with the topic, then you'll be in front of a great and useful gift!

Each of the letters are easy to understand and use — maybe two or three will require a little more practice, but what doesn't when it comes to divination? *The Coelbren Alphabet* is simple, direct, and tries to give simple answers to the most complex questions. It will only be a matter of time before you start feeling like an ancient bard with the help of the long-lost letters.

I'm not that into Celtic and Welsh methods, but this one really called to me, and despite having some doubts, as anyone would who has no experience with a particular system, I'm eager to put it into practice and see how to get the most out of it.

I do wish this book presented more images for the reader. Besides the letters and some visual examples, there are not many images. A picture or painting of Morganwg, a photo of the author using these letters, or a number of different visual options could have even made this into a mini encyclopedia.

Still, you'll definitely want to get a copy of this book and learn from Greer's discovery. Then, keep it near as you practice and consider it a kind of *Bible* while starting.

And, as the author also recommends, I encourage you to explore the Coelbren Alphabet and see what individual meaning these symbols have for you. ◆

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Haunted Cincinnati Music Hall to Reopen in October

By Erin Couch

Cincinnati Music Hall has been under construction for the umpteenth time over the past year-and-a-half. By this point in its haunted history, townies have learned that it has a few (literal) skeletons in its closet. However, the ghosts — or the lack thereof — are really what's possessing Cincinnatians' thoughts as Music Hall prepares for its grand reopening this October after extensive renovations ...

It was an average day on the job when the construction crew at Cincinnati Music Hall's latest renovation was ripping up debris in the basement of the esteemed classical music venue. But, instead of yanking out yet another splintered piece of ancient floorboard, they instead stumbled upon a bundle of human remains.

"I think they saw something little, one piece here, one piece there, or whatever, and they have to call in professionals to come get them out," Messer Construction's Project Manager Curtis Hoffman said nonchalantly. "We knew the possibility of it, but we didn't necessarily expect it."

Not to worry; this was a mild incident. They only found a couple of ancient skeletons this time; a far cry from the 65 that were rustled up in the 1927 renovation.

It's all in a day's work at the most haunted place in the tri-state Cincinnati area.

After opening its doors in 1878, Cincinnati Music Hall has been a breeding ground for ghost stories and personal experiences, including sightings of "the lady in white." (Pictures by Wholtone via Wikimedia Commons)

History of the Haunted Cincinnati Music Hall

Music Hall opened its doors in 1878 and has since been a breeding ground for ghost stories. And, when you peer into the history of this National Historic Landmark, maybe it's not so hard to consider the possibility that there are more than a few unsuspecting security guards roaming these corridors at night.

The site that Music Hall now occupies has housed so many misfortunes in the past 200 years, it's practically a cliché. The lot started out as Potter's Field, a massive unmarked grave for outlaws, unidentified persons, and the destitute. Then, Cincinnati Commercial Hospital set up shop and used the location to house contagious patients, a place befittingly referred to as the "Pest House." Finally, the site became host to yet another tragic enterprise, the Cincinnati Orphan Asylum.

Both marked and unmarked graves have been dug up on an unsettling number of occasions since Music Hall's construction in 1876 — so much so that news outlets' articles on uncovering bones have become a dime a dozen in Cincinnati.

Investigations and Personal Experiences at the Music hall

With all the unpleasantries accumulating at Music Hall's birthplace, it was only a matter of time before it started getting spooky — and people started to take notice.

Syfy's *Ghost Hunters* TV show made a stop at Music Hall for its Halloween episode in 2014 and investigated the reoccurring haunting of the crypt-turned-freight elevator switching itself on without a key. Also commonly reported and documented by Cincy Ghost Hunters — a group of local paranormal investigators — is the so-called "Lady in White." She is unmistakable in a light-colored Victorian dress with a bustle, often spotted in the auditorium, dressing rooms, and outside near the parking lot.

> "OUT OF THE CORNER OF MY EYE, THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE A SHADOW FOLLOWING ME AND DUCKING BEHIND THE PILLARS ..."

Stories are not limited to what you see on TV, however. In fact, you hear stories from believers and nonbelievers, so tales from Music Hall are probably best digested with a grain of salt.

University of Cincinnati violin performance major Kayla Waldron was wrapping up a gig with the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra when she got an eerie feeling walking back to her seat from the bathroom.

"I was by myself, and the lights were off because no one else was around. As I was walking through the lobby, I got a sense that I wasn't alone," Waldron said. "Out of the corner of my eye, there was something like a shadow following me and ducking behind the pillars, but it went away. It wasn't there when I walked back through the lobby."

Waldron considers herself to be a believer, especially after this incident.

However, not everyone who stirs up controversy has been entirely honest. Last June, Cincinnati photographer Matthew Zory did some investigating of his own, snapping some spooky photos and prompting a social media frenzy. In the pictures, it looks as though ghostly apparitions are floating across the frame visible to the naked eye. The problem? Those misty "apparitions" in the images were just a result of a slow camera shutter and poorly timed movement by other people in the room.

"Oh yeah, that place is loaded with ghosts," Zory laughed. "But, it was fun to be contacted by people who did think it was haunted . . . If you can be an open-minded skeptic, then I guess I am."

Cincy Ghost Hunters Capture Paranormal Evidence at Music Hall

So, with all these stories from self-professed rejecters and die-hard believers alike, who's going to be the one to give some peace of mind to those who are camping out on the fence between belief and denial?

Cincinnati ghost hunter Judy Knuckles has a name for these folks: fence-setters. And for fence-setters, she's got a lot to say to teeter you into the believer yard for good. Knuckles has visited more than 20 different states with her paranormal investigative group, Cincy Ghost Hunters, and has since focused heavily on Music Hall, where she leads ghost tours.

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Both intelligent and residual hauntings occur at the Music Hall, according to the Cincy Ghost Hunters team, which has captured several intelligent EVPs at the location. Other paranormal activity experienced by the team ranges from ghost giggles to elevators moving on their own.

Knuckles cites two major types of hauntings at Music Hall: intelligent and residual. Intelligent hauntings, like the name implies, are defined by the ghost's willingness to interact. Residual hauntings are essentially an imprint of a memory, which Knuckles likens to a loop of film. They are not a soul, but rather a recording of an event.

One of the most common reports of a residual haunting at Music Hall is the infamous reoccurrence of spring-loaded theater seats being folded down on their own as if someone was sitting in them.

Recent Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) — actual recordings of ghosts' "voices" — indicate intelligent hauntings. Local psychics are currently working with these EVPs to determine specific names of spirits — a first for the paranormal research being conducted at Music Hall.

While progress is still being made in this endeavor, the psychics have determined that the ghosts are not pleased with changing where they've been camping out for hundreds of years. This renovation is a major one, fixing structural detonation that has been an issue since the 19th century, improving mechanical systems and making the entire building handicap-friendly.

Still, even with their eternal resting place being torn apart and reestablished from the ground up, the primarily nonviolent haunted occurrences have led investigators to believe that none of these ghosts will be doing more harm than just being a little creepy.

"They're mostly there because they enjoyed being there; they could've been performers that didn't want to leave the area, leave the venue, so to speak. They could've just been people who cared about the building," Knuckles said. "Am I afraid of any of them? No."

From misplaced ghost giggles and entire freight elevators moving on their own, Knuckles has seen pretty much all the ghosts that Music Hall has to dish out.

Music Hall Operation Director Speaks Out

Another regular at Music Hall you might catch helping Knuckles give tours is Scott Santangelo, director of operations. Having worked at Music Hall for nearly 11 years, he is pretty well versed in the supernatural quirks the hall has to offer. His view on the paranormal itself, however, is not quite as transparent as Knuckles'.

"While my personal belief does not trend toward superstition and supernatural causes, I think it is without question that people that have had experiences that [are] not easily explained by rational quantifiable answers," Santangelo said. "That being said, I think it would be foolish to discount the several experiences that different people have had, not just in modern times, but going back as well."

Knuckles recounted a story from the same freight elevator shaft where the bodies were hastily buried during a renovation in the 1870s. In fact, the elevator has a frequent tendency to turn on without the key needed to do so. A few different explanations for this malfunction are floating around, according to Santangelo. Facility operators attribute it to the aging mechanical systems, whereas some would point out the human remains interred in the foundation of the elevator has a stake in the elevator's inexplicable movements. In spite of the second theory and his presence at one of these freight elevator incidents, Santangelo remains fixed on that fence.

"Music Hall has had many different scenarios and situations, and many, many people from many walks of life throughout history [had] unexplainable situations there," Santangelo said. "To me, that's very hard to discount."

Of course it is up for debate that Music Hall is, in fact, haunted. However, there's still one question that both skeptics and believers have lingering on their minds: Is a renovation going to be all it takes to temper the spirits of this paranormal hotspot? ◆

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CREEPY CRATE
BY THE LINEUP

ATTACK OF THE PSYCHIC SPIES

By Rick E. Hale

I am a huge fan of the animated TV show *South Park*. I particularly love the irreverence of the humor and that fact that no one is safe. There is one episode that I find absolutely hilarious, "Cartman's Incredible Gift."

In the episode, foulmouthed Cartman jumps off his house believing the only thing standing between him and the ground are a pair of wings fashioned from cardboard. Spoiler alert, they don't.

When Cartman awakens from his coma, he somehow believes he has psychic powers and can see the future. While attempting to aid South Park's finest in apprehending a serial killer, he draws the attention of so-called psychic detectives who demand he joins them. When Cartman refuses, the group attack him with their powers and hilarity ensues.

While watching this episode, one doesn't need to be psychic to understand that South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone more than likely regard psychics as absurd. However, there was a time when two major world powers, the Americans and Soviets, believed they could harness psychic ability to win the Cold War.

After the Allied powers stomped the Nazi regime into the ground during World War II, the entire European continent was up for grabs. To the west, the Western European Union was formed as a defensive alliance. And Eastern Europe became a bloc of communist nations as defined by the Warsaw Pact.

The West and the East were plunged into a Cold War that lasted the second half of the 20th century. Each side regarded the other with suspicion, making America and Russia bitter enemies.

As the Cold War heated up, both sides built up their

military forces, including weapons that could wipe out humanity at the push of a button. For those of us who grew up during those tense times, we knew all too well that each side was not afraid to push those buttons in a pissing contest of world-ending proportions.

Then in 1970, the United States discovered, presumably through spying, that the Soviets were dumping massive amounts of rubles into what they called "psychotronic studies." In other words, the Soviets were researching the potential of using psychics to gain a strategic advantage against their sworn enemies.

And the U.S. government, not wanting to be bested by their archnemesis, began doing the same. Each side wanted an edge and would go to any lengths to obtain it, no matter how bizarre. Thus, a new era of psychic research was born.

The Soviet Psychic Killer Nina Kulagina

Down through the ages, there have been ordinary people endowed with psychic abilities who could do extraordinary things. The Oracle at Delphi and Daniel Dunglass Home are two perfect examples. However, one psychic stands out among the rest. A very ordinary Russian housewife who became the focus of the Soviet's psychic research, Nina Kulagina.

At 14 years old, Nina answered the call of mother Russia and went to fight the Nazis as a member of the elite Red Army tank regiment. When the war ended and the Nazi scourge was defeated, Nina faded into obscurity and became a housewife. Leaving the war behind her, or so she thought.

Growing up, Nina had always had strange things happen around her. In her presence, inanimate objects seemed to take on a life of their own. Kitchen utensils moved toward her, lights flickered uncontrollably, and doors and windows slammed. Nina experienced what parapsychology would call Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis (known as RSPK). Except her RSPK wasn't so spontaneous. Nina could control her special ability and soon caught the attention of scientists and the military.

Under the ever watchful eyes of the Soviet military, Nina displayed amazing feats of psychic ability. She was filmed moving objects on a table under a glass dome to rule out trickery. Nina also had physical changes when she performed.

The scientists noted an altered heartbeat, unusual brainwave activity, and disturbances in the electromagnetic field. Nina was a true phenomena. But she was able to do so much more. Even kill.

Scientists and the military speculated that if Nina could affect things like scissors and light matches with her mind she could affect cells, human tissue, and organs. And in March 1972, under close scrutiny, Nina stopped the beating heart of a frog. Of course, the military was elated, because Nina Kulagina, could potentially be a powerful weapon, a deadly assassin that could kill with a glance.

From 1970 to her death in 1990, Nina was nothing more than a lab rat to the Soviets. Researchers hoped she could replicate what she did to the frog. She couldn't; it was a one shot deal. Although she was scrutinized closely, skeptics consider her a fraud and the Soviet program a joke.

U.S. Creates SCANATE and Gondola Wish

In 1970, not wanting to appear as if they were lagging behind the Soviets, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) initiated funding for its own psychic espionage program. SCANATE, or scan by coordinate, focused on exploratory research in remote viewing, the ability to see a location from a great distance. It was established to study, research, and investigate psychic phenomena. But, the CIA's underlying reason for establishing SCANATE was to determine whether these abilities could be applied to intelligence gathering.

In 1972, the study of remote viewing was established at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in California. For the United States intelligence community, such an ability would be invaluable for espionage purposes. So when the government came calling, Stanford was all too willing to help.

Russian Nina Kulagina appears to levitate an object that looks like a ping-pong ball during the 1960s. The Russians hoped that Nina could kill its enemies by merely using her mind as a weapon.

Participants in the remote viewing study were seated in a room and given coordinates with the expectation of viewing the designated location. SRI and the CIA demanded a 65% accuracy rate from the test subjects. And after many attempts, the participants exceeded what was expected of them. It was at this point the military took complete control of the study.

In 1977, after five years of remote viewing and precognition studies, the Army assistant chief of staff for intelligence system exploitation established the Gondola Wish program. The objective of Gondola Wish was to evaluate potential adversary use of remote viewing. The

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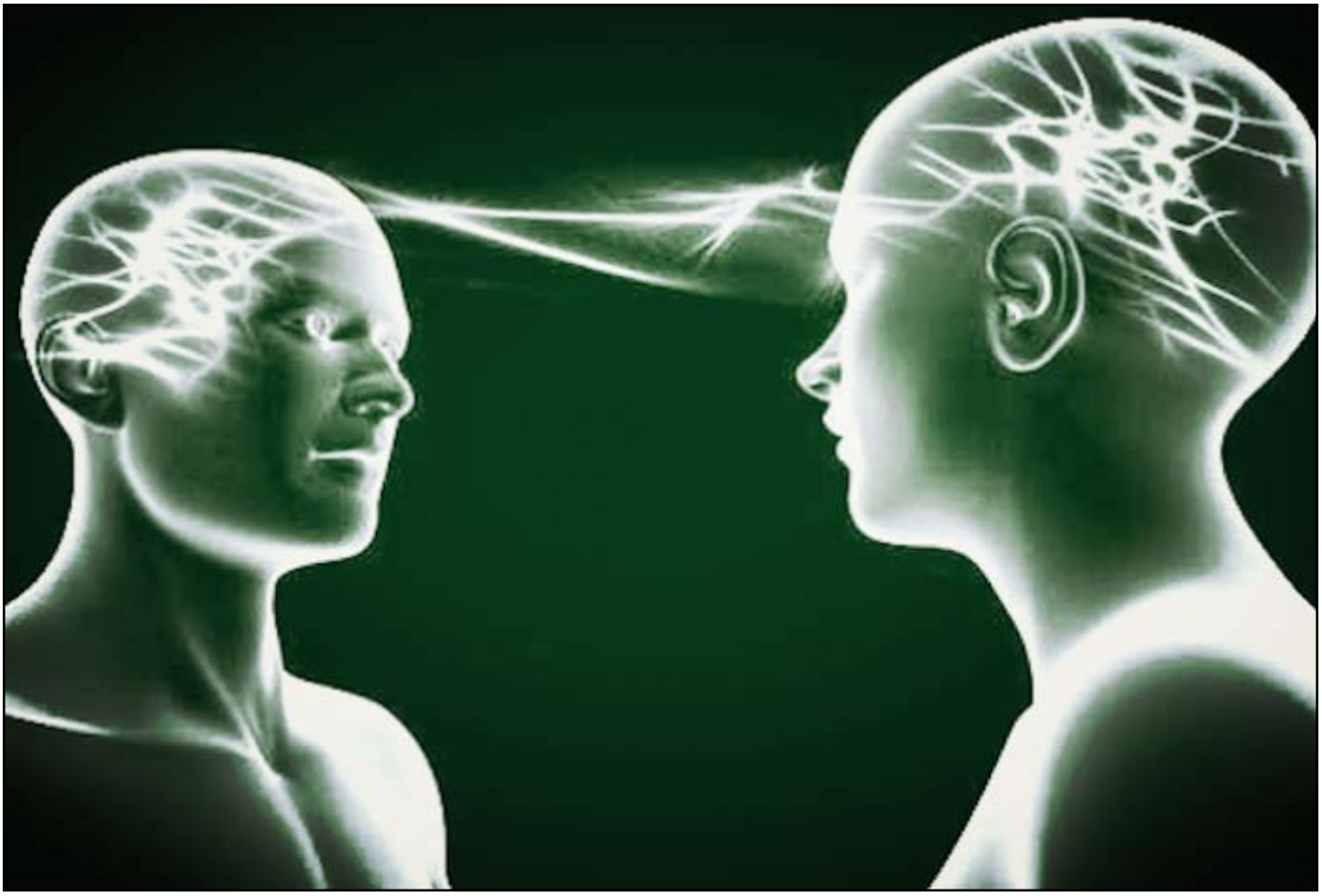


U.S. Army believed remote viewing could be utilized to spy on the enemies of America. Imagine a group of spies who could gather intelligence on nuclear missile silos, troop movements, and secret Kremlin meetings without loss of human life. The Army could certainly imagine it, and it was a dream come true.

Not wanting to waste any time, SRI was integrated with operation GRILL FLAME at fort Meade, Maryland. Psychic ability was about to be put to practical use by spying on the Soviets. But, not all was well, as the U.S. government's covert operation was about to be exposed.

Imagine a group of spies who could gather intelligence on nuclear missile silos, troop movements, and secret Kremlin meetings using their minds.

In 1984, Jack Anderson, a syndicated columnist and investigative journalist, uncovered the plan to use so-called psychics for intelligence gathering. Believing such a thing to be absurd, Anderson reported his findings to the National Academy of Science. Needless to say, the idea of using pseudo scientific methods in espionage was not received well by the Academy. The nails were being driven into the coffin of psychic spying.

Due to this unfortunate turn of events, the Army lost funding for the program. With the Army ranking on the program, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Scientific, and Technical Directorate took over the project. Psychic spying was now deep underground. In 1991, the program was renamed Project Star Gate. But like the buffalo and stirrup pants, psychic spying was about to become a thing of the past.

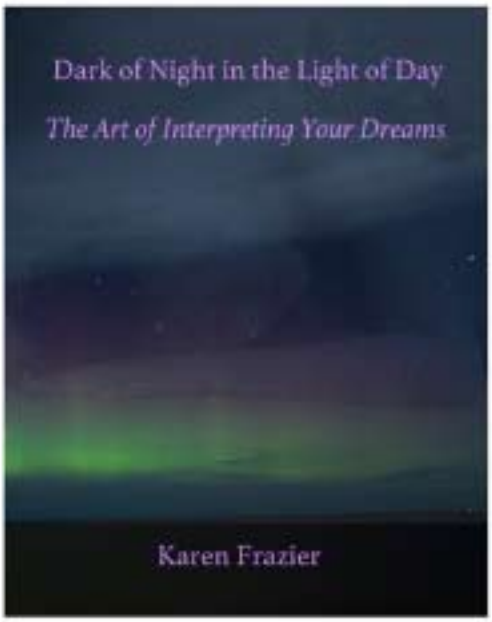
After being taken over by the CIA in 1995, Project Star Gate lost all funding. Many in the government and the mainstream scientific community considered its findings to be vague and unreliable. Even the CIA cited a lack of documented evidence that the program had any value to the intelligence community. After 25 years of study, psychic spying was dead.

Now, I'm not one for conspiracy theories, as I usually regard them as illogical, but some believe Project Star Gate is still very much alive. Whether or not this is true is debatable. But, the next time someone says psychic ability isn't scientific, just remind them the government of two major super powers sure thought so. ◆

New from *Paranormal Underground* columnist

Karen Frazier

Unlock the power of your dreams



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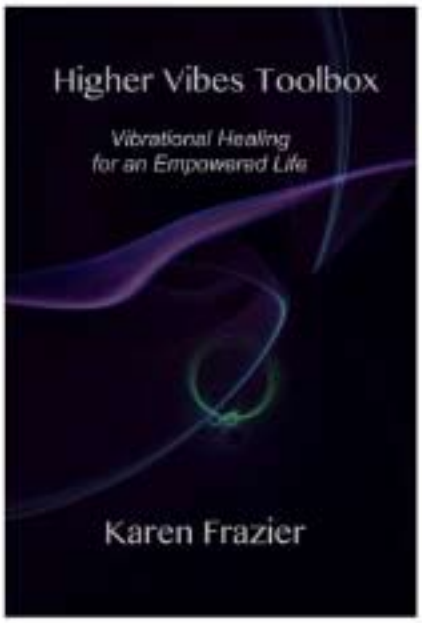
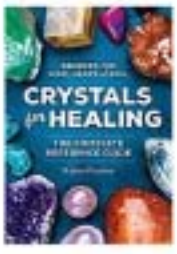
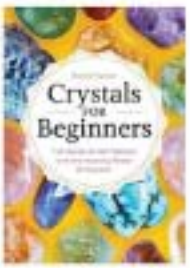


Also by Karen





AuthorKarenFrazier.com

CHANNELING WITH TAROT

By Tamara Albanna, www.tamara-albanna.com

Tarot is a tool. Some say it connects you with divine wisdom or Source. Others call that your higher self. Whatever the case, it has brought comfort and relief to many.

I have had the privilege of being able to offer this to family, friends, and clients through the years. But, there was one instance in particular that stands out, and probably always will, involving my tarot work. It was the time the dead came through with messages.

I met up with a good friend who came to visit, and she brought along a couple of her friends. My sister and I decided to meet them for dinner, and, of course, I brought along my deck. My friend had expressed fascination with the idea of tarot, and one of her friends also wanted a reading; the other was a bit of a skeptic but open to the possibility.

After some time, they asked me if I could give a reading. Of course, I obliged. I love giving readings; it truly brings me so much joy to do this kind of work, so any opportunity to do so, I will never hesitate.

It started off lighthearted enough; lots of love questions, and I even managed to somewhat convince the skeptic that there may be more to this deck of cards than meets the eye after responding to some work-related queries.

Then, things got serious. I started feeling strange, and it was as though I was sort of numb but my mouth was moving. My friend's tears started to flow, and her friend got emotional as well.

Apparently, I had hit a nerve, her dearly departed relative had come through, and I was saying things that only she would say to her. The skeptic in the group had apparently had enough. I know these things can be

a bit of a surprise, so I understood when she got up to leave early.

This had never happened before; it was as though something just "took over." I didn't realize it at the time, but I was helping their loved ones pass along a message. In spite of the tears, it brought them incredible relief, and after it was finished, they were so grateful.

The gravity of the situation hadn't hit me yet, but my sister looked at me in shock. She later told me, "Your mouth was moving, I was looking at you, but it wasn't *you*. " This confirmed the feeling I had experienced. While it was strange, it wasn't scary at all; in fact, I felt privileged that I was able to do it.

After we said our goodbyes, we made our way home. I was feeling very exhausted, but I put that down to the late nights I had been having with my sister and figured a good night's sleep would be all I needed. The next few days, however, were troubling.

It started with the continued exhaustion. I woke up tired and went to bed tired. Then, the headaches started happening. I was always prone to headaches, but these were, somehow, different. I also noticed my mood really took a dive. I thought it was just the exhaustion, but after a while, I realized something was really wrong.

I had stumbled across something on social media about spirit attachments. It caught my attention, because it seemed my symptoms were common with those who have experienced this phenomena. After speaking to someone more knowledgeable about this, I knew what I had to do.

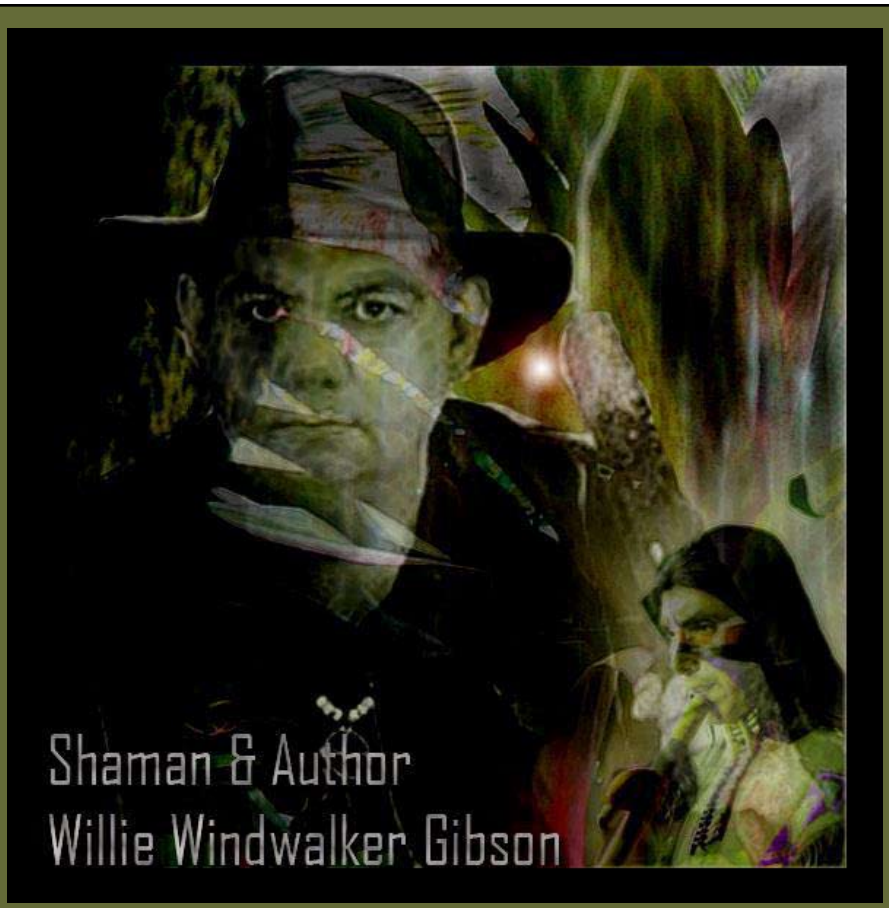
I politely, but firmly, asked my spirit "friends" who had decided to hang around to leave. I also called in my own spirit tribe for support on the matter. I used my favorite incense and pulled out a few crystals to keep around me for clearing and protection. I not only cleared myself, but the deck I had used, just in case.

Within 24 hours, my symptoms disappeared, and I was back to my usual self.

I was relieved that this whole ordeal was over, but in truth, I don't regret giving those readings. In fact, I have done them since, but with far more knowledge about the spirit world. I know that sometimes our passed-over loved ones tend to hang around, and, naturally, they need a living body to help them stay around in that way. This causes the energy drain and other symptoms that the living experience.

I truly believe we don't have anything to fear about the other side; it is just another realm, and one we will all eventually visit ourselves. But, while we are in these earthly bodies, it's good to make sure we are also safe doing this type of work.

Tarot is a multifaceted gift, whether it is love readings or channeling a message from your aunt who has left this earthly plane, everyone can benefit from this powerful deck of cards. ◆



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What in the World Is Happening?
Energy Healing in Today's World

By Karen Frazier

It's been a rough several months. The President of the United States is embroiled in scandal and controversy. North Korea appears poised to catapult the world into nuclear war. In the Western United States and British Columbia, fires have burned out of control throughout the summer, filling nearby skies with thick smoke and destroying countless acres of forest.

In early September, the strongest earthquake in a century killed dozens of people in Mexico. Huge hurricanes caused destruction and flooding in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. School shootings still continue to be an issue, with the latest occurring at a high school in Spokane, Washington.

Those are just a few of the major events, and I could go on. It seems people are angrier, more violent, and less civil. There seems to be greater intolerance. Even the Earth seems angry, as if it is trying to rid itself of humanity.

What on Earth is going on?

Shifting Energy

The energy of humanity has been shifting. Believe it or not, it's been shifting in a positive direction as more people engage in spiritual practices that raise their vibration. And the more people who work to raise their vibration, even a little, the more the vibration of the planet raises bit by bit.

That's why spiritual practices are so important ... because, ultimately, the vibration of the planet will rise with each one, and eventually we'll hit critical mass and make a shift.

Pushback of Old Energy

As the energy shifts, however, old, lower-vibrational energy doesn't go without a fight. It pushes back, and often it pushes back hard. I believe that's what we're seeing with people exhibiting negative behavior. People like Kim Jung Un are stuck in older, lower-vibrational energy, and they are pushing back as energy shifts.

At the same time, the Earth's energy has been shifting along with humanity. Many of the negative Earth events we are currently seeing are essentially the Earth exhibiting "recovery symptoms." It's similar to recovery symptoms in humans. When someone's body is filled with toxins (such as via a non-nutritious diet or due to environmental toxins), and they make changes that lead to the removal of those toxins, they display recovery symptoms, which are the recurrence of symptoms they may have had when they

were first exposed. These new old symptoms occur as the body releases the toxins, and they are temporary.

I believe this is what is happening with the planet. As its vibration rises and its magnetics change, the Earth is exhibiting recovery symptoms as it adapts to the new energy. As they are in humans, these "symptoms" are likely temporary.

That's not to say there aren't also environmental reasons why the Earth is struggling, and those are something else altogether humanity will have to eventually rectify for the long-term health of our planet.

What You Can Do

So what can the average person do to help keep the vibrational energy of humanity and the planet on the rise? For starters, it's important to meditate or engage in another spiritual practice every day. Send positive energy to the planet, the universe, and your fellow humans.

When something "bad" happens, send love and positive energy to the event and to all affected. Cultivate joy and passion in your own life, and practice kindness and compassion with yourself and others. And, although it may be difficult, try to see every person as the highest version of who they are. Set aside judgment. No matter how abominably they appear to behave, recognize them for the spark of the Divine they all have within.

Author Paul Selig in his channeled works recommends acknowledging their perfect, Divine nature by saying (aloud or to yourself): "I know who you are; I know what you are; I know how you serve."

With these words you acknowledge that despite how someone may present or behave in the world, you recognize their highest self. And in doing so, you raise their vibration just a little. For everyone you meet (including yourself), hold the highest vision of their highest selves. The more you can do this, the more you can bring about the change you wish to see in the world.

Read Karen's new energy healing book, "Higher Vibes Toolbox: Vibrational Healing for an Empowered Life," which is available on Amazon. ◆

Winter Balefire
Love Letters Destroyed
Love Letters Destroyed is Winter Balefire's first book of poetry now available at Amazon, Lulu, Barnes & Noble and all fine retailers that sell great books. Pick it up in eBook and signed paperback editions today!
Love Letters Destroyed is a collection of poetry representing all that is written and left unsaid. Sleepless nights, dark thoughts, and broken bits of sanity fill these pages. Each piece tells a story and each story will reveal every part of your psyche you've hidden from. Here you will find everything you've ever felt but have never said aloud.

Dream Interpretation: Past Lives and the Akashic Record

By Karen Frazier

Dear Karen,

"I wouldn't consider this as a recurrent dream, but basically the same dream has happened twice over the past few weeks and sticks with me for several hours after I wake up. The dream simply starts by faces appearing directly in front of me. I cannot see anything but these faces. They are so close to me that I can see the pores on their skin and feel their breath. They appear as different races, different ages, and different nationalities.

"The second time the dream was with different faces but the same basic mix of races and ages. What made this significant was at the end of each dream, I heard only one word. It was 'remember.' Then I wake up.

"What is bothersome is what is it I am supposed to remember and why. When I meditate I often get flashes of strange scenes and faces, but nothing as intense as what these dreams have been, and I'm not sure if they are even related to the dreams. What's up?"

—Anonymous

Dear Anonymous:

I feel strongly this is a past-life dream. It may be that in this lifetime, something from your past lives is important for you to remember, and all the faces you are seeing are faces of yourself from past lives.

I recommend doing some meditation on your Akashic record, which is the record of every incarnation you have ever had. Perhaps in accessing this, you can figure out exactly what you need to remember. It seems the dream is telling you that doing so is important for your highest and greatest good in this lifetime. The trick is to absorb the knowledge and wisdom without getting stuck on exploring the entire past life, because what's most important is the life you are leading right now. However, you can access Akashic information and put it to good use in this life.

Here's an Akashic records meditation you can do. I'd recommend doing it daily.

Sit or lie comfortably with your eyes closed. Begin by breathing deeply and releasing any tension you notice in your body or thoughts. When you feel deeply relaxed,

notice you are standing at the opening to a garden. As you step into the garden, notice it is filled with glowing crystals of all colors, shapes, and sizes. Crystals are in every nook and cranny of the garden, filling flowers, growing from trees, embedded in the earth.

Allow yourself to adjust to the energy of the garden. As you do, notice one of the crystals seems to be glowing brighter than the others, calling you to it. Notice its size, shape, and color. Pay attention to how it makes you feel. When you are ready, go to that crystal. This is your crystal that contains the Akashic record of your lifetimes. It contains all of the power, wisdom, learning, experience, talent, strength, and emotion from every lifetime you've ever lived.

Hold the crystal in your hand, close your eyes, and allow the energy and information to transfer from the crystal to you. Trust that all information the crystal shares will serve your highest and greatest good in this lifetime. Hold the crystal for as long as you need. When you are ready, give thanks, put the crystal back, and take your time exiting the garden.

AN AKASHIC RECORD CONTAINS EVERY INCARNATION YOU HAVE EVER HAD.

Open your eyes when you feel comfortable doing so.

Hopefully this can help you make sense of your dream. Thanks for writing!

—Karen

Read Karen's new dream interpretation book, "Dark of Night in the Light of Day: The Art of Interpreting Your Dreams," which is now available on Amazon.

Do you have a dream that you'd like to have interpreted? Email editor@paranormalunderground.net with a detailed description of your dream, and Karen Frazier will interpret it for you. Dream submissions can be anonymous, and we'll send you the interpretation back via email. ◆

Maria Anna van Driel author of;
'The NWO, their thoughts…your life' It's time to wake up, we are the illusion
'Our mind in a controlled quantum Euclidean space?
Natural and unnatural energies as a global weapon for mind and behavior control
The NWO, their thoughts — Your life
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THE UNSEEN

By Willie Windwalker Gibson

Since the age of 10, I have had the gifts to see and hear spirits. I thought being able to do this was great. However, my father, Robert Gibson, did not think so. He always had the fear that if people found out, they would say I was crazy and put me in a hospital somewhere away from him and the rest of the family. He always said, "Willie, never tell anyone that you see ghosts or talk to ghosts. They would not understand."

My dad also told me that if I did have visitations, only tell him, not even my mom or siblings. So I didn't. When a spirit would show up, if I was alone, I would talk to the spirit. Usually, the spirit needed help to cross over or for me to help with a problem. I did the task with no problem and just told my dad what I had done.

There are many times throughout my life where spirits show up and just hang around. I found out that these spirits are called attachments. These spirits feel comfortable around people they know can see and hear them, and they become part of your life regardless if you want them there or not. It takes a clearing, usually, to get them to go away — something stronger than just telling them to leave you alone.

Then there are the spirits that you constantly see out of the corner of your eye. I'm sure you know what I mean — the flash of someone who is there and then gone. You don't have to be a sensitive for this to happen; it happens to a lot of us. Those spirits break through the veil just enough to be seen. Those spirits tends to make me crazy at times. I could be driving down the road and see an Indian standing on the road or someone jot across the road

I remember one time I was driving and saw a child dart across the road. I jammed on the breaks and almost caused a car accident. I have had many people tell me of similar things happening to them. They ask me what they can do about it, and I tell them there's not much they can do.

What causes increases in this type of activity? In my opinion it is the Earth shifting, causing the veil between dimensions to open more. As a result, people see more spirits, ghosts, UFOs, and weird creatures like Bigfoot.

In fact, we are starting to see more of the unseen coming into our world. Dimensions open up everywhere, and this is why the Earth's energies are also changing. More earthquakes, more weather patterns getting violent with storms, and vibrations in the water getting more charged and causing hurricanes. That's why these Earth events usually happen one right after another.

You can't explain something like this to a scientist. It just wouldn't fly with them. Global warming would be a better solution for them. But, in fact, it's the veil getting thinner.

Sensitives know what's going on. We try to tell the world what's going on, but we are dismissed as fakes. That's why people with gifts tend to drift to each other and start communications with one another. That's why you have publications like *Paranormal Underground* magazine. That's why you have paranormal radio shows ... so we can get the word out. Whether you believe what you read and hear is up to you.

The Unseen are here; they are not going anywhere. The next time you see a spirit or look up into the sky and see something unusual, consider yourself lucky. Consider that you are a person who has been informed about what's going on.

I want to tell you not to be afraid, just read and listen. Read your magazines, listen to your radio shows, get informed while learning how to cope. ◆

ARE YOU A TRUTHSEEKER?

http://truthseekerhighway.com/
http://truthseekerforum.com/

Area 52: Internet Hoax or Real-Life Alien Research Base?

By Krystle Vermes, www.getspooked.net

We've all heard of Area 51 — the famed U.S. Air Force base within the Nevada Test and Training Range that is supposedly used for top-secret inquiries into extraterrestrial life. The site has even been featured in Hollywood films like *Independence Day* (1996) and *Paul* (2011).

While there is still good reason to be fascinated with the base, it might be worth stepping out of the box for a moment to see what's happening over at Area 52.

Yes, there is an Area 52. Depending on who you ask, its location and purpose may vary, but we're here to take a deep dive into some of the most well-known theories about the base.

Here's what they didn't tell you about in paranormal school ...

Where Exactly Is Area 52?

Some believe Area 52 is a base located beneath the Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and Boulder City, Nevada. It isn't completely disconnected from its cousin Area 51 in a literal sense.

Theorists say there is a tunnel that connects the two bases, and it stretches miles in length. Area 52 itself is thought to be as large as New York City, according to some, and it can house up to 25,000 people.

What Are the Juiciest Rumors?

This one comes from a cement truck driver who supposedly worked at Area 52. According to the man, as gathered by Area 51 expert John Lear, it would take up to four hours to make deliveries underground.

Lear also spoke to some pilots who described un-

usual "secret runways that open and close like zippers." Others told him that Area 52 requires special entry, and people working there are focused on developing "highly advanced radar research."

The "Other" Area 52

If you're looking for a more concrete Area 52, refer to the Dugway Proving Ground. This U.S. Army facility located 85 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah, has been called names like Area 52 and "the new Area 51."

Furthermore, it's more "real" than the supposed Area 52 located underground near the original Area 51.

Let's elaborate: There's an official U.S. military Website for the Dugway Proving Ground, which makes it somewhat more believable than any theorized alien base. It's supposedly about the same size as Rhode Island, and it is used to test biological and chemical weapons.

But is that all?

Some refer to it as Area 52 because of a closed-off portion that isn't mentioned on its official Website. This has led some ufologists and conspiracy theorists to believe that there is some otherworldly testing going on at the site.

Since the early 2000s, speculation has only grown as the size of this closed-off area has expanded.

Area 51 and Beyond

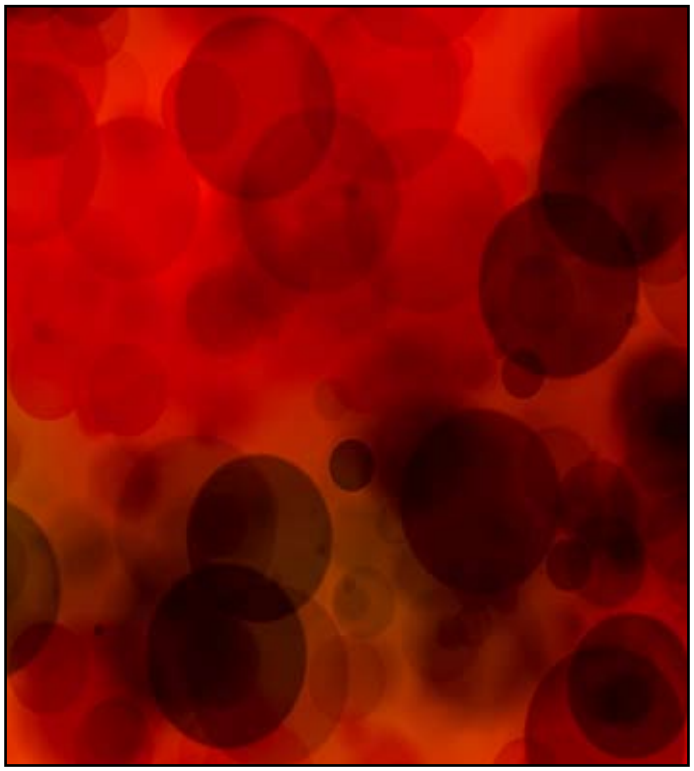
People aren't completely finished with Area 51, as we stated at the top of the article, but they're finding it fun to theorize where other alien bases might exist. The military is subsequently making it easier for people to believe by keeping certain locations under wraps.

As long as there are "secrets" being kept by the government, there will always be fuel to feed the fire — and who doesn't want to think outside of the box once in a while? ◆

BLOOD MAGIC

By Winter M. Balefire, www.WinterBalefire.com

Blood magic is one of the most taboo topics in magical practice and beliefs. Though I do not practice this type of magic myself, I'd like to answer some common questions on this topic.



What Is Blood Magic?

Blood magic is the use of the practitioner's own blood, or someone else's, to help personalize and amplify a spell or ritual. Many feel the act of adding blood shows their truest intent, and if they are trying to work with a deity, this increases the possibility of cooperation from the deity, as well as expediting the desired outcome.

Why Is Blood So Important?

Blood is our life force. We associate blood with death, birth, healing, and harming. Blood brings forth strong emotions. Without it, we would cease to exist. We use terms like "flesh and blood" and "blood of Christ" daily. Our blood is the purest part of us.

How Much Blood Is Used?

Just a few drops are recommended. Depending on the practitioner and the spell, there are different techniques. There is the practice for women to use menstrual blood collected during a new or full moon, also known as "moon blood." This blood is sometimes used in fertility and love spells.

Some feel moon blood works well as an offering to the earth to help plants grow. Blood from pricking your finger can be used in other spells, such as protection, health, and for those who choose to practice curses or revenge spells.

When Is Blood Magic Acceptable?

There is no way to dictate exactly when to perform this type of spell work or ritual. There are some suggestions. If you choose to use blood magic, you must understand this is one of the most intense ways to practice so your requirements must be just as serious. For example, if a coworker or neighbor is annoying you, this is not the time for blood magic. However, if you feel your life is in danger, aside from taking proper legal action, this would be a time for blood magic if you choose to do so.

Another example would be if you feel you need a little more money for rent, this is not the time for blood magic, but if you are on the verge of becoming homeless, that is a different and more acceptable circumstance. You can also use blood magic for serious health issues.

Is This Safe?

While I don't recommend blood magic, those who practice blood magic have rules that they choose to follow. First, they only use a few drops of their own blood; they never use someone else's without their permission. They just make a small pin prick — no blades, no knife, no deep cutting. They always sanitize the area first, clean it well after, and use an antibiotic ointment on the wound.

Some feel you must never ingest blood or make someone else ingest blood in food or drink. These rules can change depending on the practitioner and what they are putting their intent toward.

> SOME USE BLOOD MAGIC TO DRESS CANDLES OR PUT A DROP IN A DREAM PILLOW OR MOJO BAG.

How Is the Blood Used?

There are many ways to use blood, including to dress candles, put a drop in a dream pillow or mojo bag, place a drop on a piece of paper before burning, or placing a drop directly into the flame.

Blood can be placed in a Witch bottle for protection and placed inside a poppet for healing. Some may use a drop of their blood as an offering to a deity or dare I say a demon.

Why Is This Practice Frowned Upon?

There are a few reasons that blood magic is so taboo. This type of magic brings forth images of human and animal sacrifice, as well as the old belief that witches signed a pact with the devil in blood.

Certain types of media have helped in making this topic dark and mysterious. There is a misconception that this type of practice is reserved for only those who practice black magic. As I've stated before, any type of magic can be used to cause harm in the wrong hands. Blood is a part of rituals involving sacrifice, but these rituals are now rare.

Sacrifice does still occur in some cultures, usually animal sacrifices as food and offering. These cultures feel the sacrifice is a gift and will make use of every part provided as a thank you to the creature. Though many feel this practice is wrong since most of us view animals as something to protect, again, different parts of the world practice and believe differently.

Blood magic does not have to be done to be a serious practitioner. This is something totally optional. You should always be confident and comfortable with however you choose to practice. ◆

DOGMAN VS. WEREWOLF: Similar Cryptids With a Big Difference (Part 2)

By Rainbow Radaelli, www.TruthSeekerHighway.com

Read Part 1 of this article in "Paranormal Underground" magazine's August 2017 issue.

As a researcher or cryptid enthusiast, I'm sure there are probably many of you who are skeptics regarding my two experiences, as detailed in the last issue of *Paranormal Underground* magazine. And if it hadn't happen to me, I would be right there with you.

First and foremost, I wasn't on drugs and wasn't drinking alcohol during these two encounters. The Vision Quest in itself was a life-altering experience, but not enough to make me hallucinate those guttural growls or the wet dog smell. They were just as real as my fear and the footsteps trying to outrun me.

So what I think is important here is to go back and explain each situation for what I think it was. In the first story, with Tulack the Dogman, we eventually went back and investigated further. As for my werewolf encounter, I have some unusual conclusions as to what I think it could have been.

Sometimes when you aren't looking or aware in the moment, the very thing that seems to continually elude you pops up out of nowhere, almost happenstance. It's like a wake-up call but not the typical finger snapping kind; more like a slap in the face.

"Did I just see what I thought I saw?"

Tulack the Dogman was an unexpected surprise, and let's face it, maybe I could have come up with a really cool name for him down the line, but there's no way I would have ever come close to the name he gave me. It popped in my head as we were driving home from

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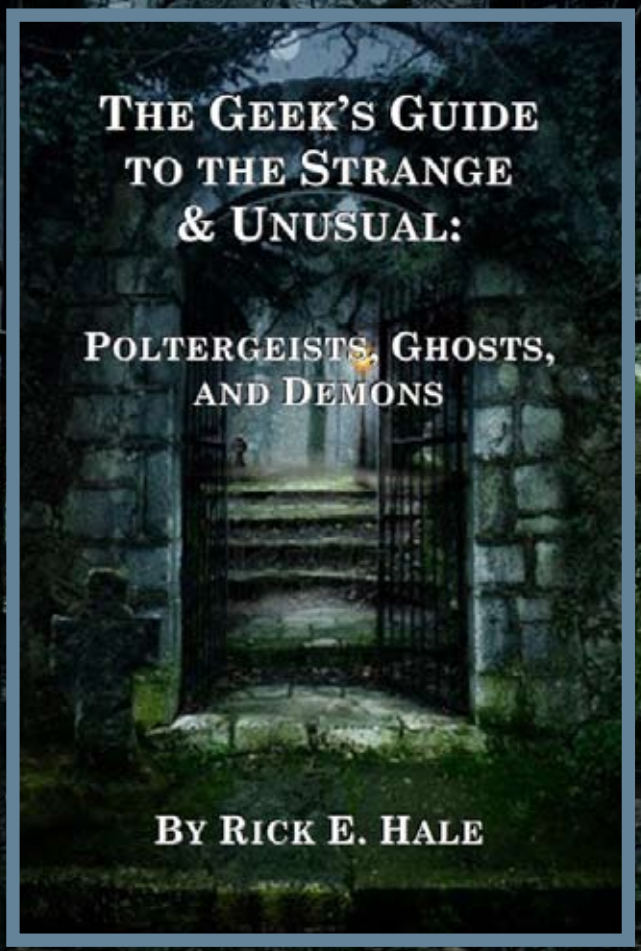
The Geek's Guide to the Strange & Unusual: Poltergeists, Ghosts, and Demons

Rick E. Hale's book about unexplainable paranormal phenomena explores many of the world's most intriguing paranormal cases and haunted locations, including the Demon Drummer of Tedworth, Lucedio Abbey, the Dagg poltergeist, and three cases of possession, among many others.



Book Now Available Online at Amazon.com

that encounter, and from that moment on, I felt honored to know his name.

Three weeks went by before Michael and I went back out to the area where we saw Tulack. We knew we needed to go back and make sense of what we had seen and compare notes. First, we checked the area where he was standing in the photograph. Nothing was on the spot where he was standing, so we knew he was real.

Next, we wanted to see how tall he was. To the right side of the photograph, there was a tree that had a blue line drawn across it. It happened to be in front of the tree Tulack was standing by. We gathered from that tree that he was a bit over 7 feet tall.

To be honest, I was surprised because I thought he would have been taller than that. I don't think dogmen are as tall as Sasquatch, but then 7 feet is no small potatoes.

This particular skinwalker got great joy out of scaring the bejeebies out of me.

There was no smell to Tulack or the brown bear. We didn't smell wet dog or a musky odor as some people have reported. If we wouldn't have seen them, we never would have known they were there.

My husband has an idea why we didn't smell them, and I must say that I absolutely agree with him. When most animals are frightened or provoked, they often put out a pungent body odor. Scientists have stated that fear can be emitted from the human body and people can smell it.

A study done at the University of Vienna in Austria found that women could detect fear in the sweat of a woman who had just watched a scary movie.

If we can smell fear on each other, it's a no-brainer that we would be able to smell the same with animals and other creatures. This indicated to Michael and I that Tulack wasn't afraid of us.

As far as footprints go, it was the farthest thing from our minds when we got the nauseating feelings. When we received the thought transference message, "Stay away," we did as he asked. Unfortunately, it took us a few weeks to get back to that location.

The big difference the second time around was the fact that we could feel Tulack in the forest without feeling nauseous. I think this is what he wanted, to be recognized yet left alone.

The photograph was the start for us connecting a few dots, and going back to check out the trails definitely gave us the feeling that we were in his domain. In the end, it's all about respecting them and where they live.

The werewolf encounter was another ballgame entirely. My narrow escape was a bit trickier thanks to a darkness that I had never encountered before that time.

At the time I was focusing on my Medicine way, a path to becoming a healer. I had heard rumors of this so-called werewolf in the area of the Taos Mountains where I lived, but to be honest, I thought it was more folktale than fact.

However, I must interject here that I think there are confused and muddy beliefs about what the differences are between a werewolf and a dogman — and I'll also include into this group a menacing foe called a skinwalker. Here's my interpretation of who I think they are. A werewolf is half man and half beast, thus becoming a hybrid. The dogman is a cryptid from birth, and a skinwalker is a dark shaman impersonating and taking on the shape of animals besides casting spells and curses.

I know I felt the shape of a werewolf running up behind me that night I hightailed it back to my family's camp, but in retrospect, I think I experienced a skinwalker. They epitomize the essence of dark tricksters and are probably the best illusionists out there. This particular skinwalker got great joy out of scaring the bejeebies out of me. Looking back, I feel it was male.

The obvious fact is, if it was a real-life werewolf, I wouldn't be writing this article, because there is no way I would have lived to tell the tale. Even if it played with me for awhile, like a cat with a mouse, I still would have ended up being the main course.

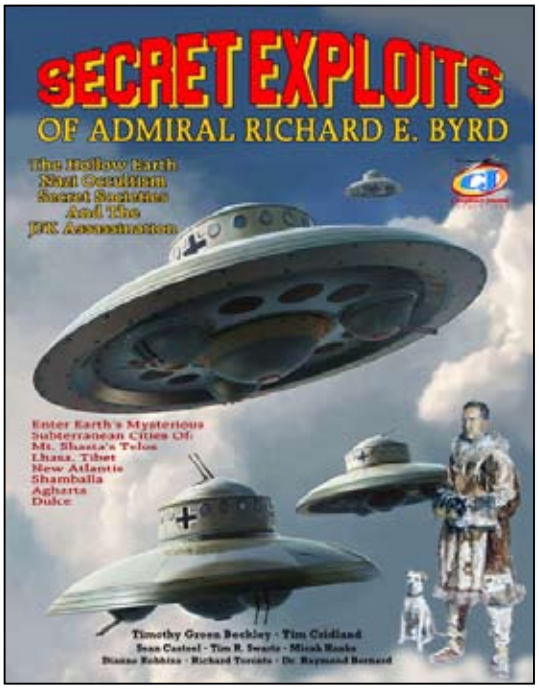
As I look back at that experience, I have the impression that whoever he was ... he knew me. This would make sense, because I came across many people in those days, dark and light practitioners alike. Some hid the darkness well.

I think the dark magic I experienced that night also altered my mind. Whoever this was probably had been watching me throughout the day while I was at my most vulnerable.

Interestingly enough, the smell of whatever it was has stayed with me to this day. I will never forget those gut-wrenching growls or advancing footsteps that rapidly closed in on me. I think I fell victim to a dark shamanic magic, up close and personal.

Perhaps this clarifies some things, or it could leave even more questions than answers. Either way, I wouldn't change these experiences for the world, because they are both apart of being a cryptid researcher and experiencer. As some of you know, it just comes with the territory. ◆

DID ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD LEAD A SECRET "PRIVATE LIFE" AWAY FROM THE PRYING EYES OF THE PUBLIC? WHAT WAS HIS ULTIMATE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY?



Several years ago a mysterious manuscript said to be Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Private Diary emerged. In it Byrd wrote about a vast ice free "paradise" beyond the Poles:

"We are crossing over the small mountain range and still proceeding northward as best as can be ascertained. Beyond the mountain range is what appears to be a valley with a small river or stream running through the center portion. There should be no green valley below! Something is definitely wrong and abnormal here! We should be over Ice and Snow! To the port side are great forests growing on the mountain slopes. Our navigation instruments are still spinning, the gyroscope is oscillating back and forth!"

During his career as an explorer, up until his death in March 1957, Byrd was considered a national hero. Besides exploring both Poles, it is alleged that the veteran Navy commander had come upon an entrance way that led into a Hollow Earth inhabited by a race of giants.

Rumor also has it that Byrd, during his 1947 expedition, was confronted by a "lost" Battalion of Nazis whose settlement was being guarded by a fleet of back engineered "Flying Saucers." And while Byrd's scientific team was supposed to stay for six months in this frozen region, his expedition was called off shortly after his arrival.

What is generally not known is that on one of Byrd's sojourns to Antarctica, he sought to stave off mutiny from among his crew by enlisting some of the younger members into a very secretive "Loyal Legion," which enabled him to clamp down on any leaks about his missions and discoveries.

And while the content of Byrd's "secret diary" is open to debate, researcher and author Tim Cridland searches deeply into the many shadowy unknowns surrounding Byrd and the Nazis as well as a previously undisclosed wrinkle: a closely guarded connection between JFK's assassination to the iron grip of those determined to keep the secrets surrounding UFOs and the arrival of ultra-terrestrials locked away from public scrutiny forever. This conspiracy involved members of a sinister secret group of wealthy and "well connected" individuals that included Lyndon Johnson, John Connelly and at least one member of Byrd's family among its ranks.

This book takes a wholly original approach to a great many areas of interest revolving around the concept that our Earth is "hollow," and that a vast cavern system, constructed eons ago, exists connecting various subterranean cities with their hidden gateways back to the surface world. Both benevolent beings as well as "denizens of the deep" are said to populate this hidden realm.

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The Merry Monk Pub Investigation

By Elaine Kelly, Spectre Detectors

I lead a team of paranormal investigators called Spectre Detectors, and we investigate various places in the Northeast UK that are reputedly haunted. Our aim is to investigate buildings that have never been investigated before. We have previously investigated The Hippodrome in Bishop Auckland, the home of Mary Ann Cotton, and many other historic buildings.

We don't provoke activity in any way, we don't use Ouija boards, and we hold each investigation with the utmost respect.

In January 2017, we approached Chris and Susan about carrying out an investigation at The Merry Monk pub at Bishop Auckland in the UK. They both agreed, and on Sunday, March 12, we conducted the investigation.

Chris was very skeptical, and Susan was very nervous, as she had never taken part in anything like this before. However, she was frightened of what she experienced at the property, because she has to live there. They were very interested in finding out what is still linked to the building.

Spectre Detectors investigated The Merry Monk in the UK during March 2017, where they captured audio and photographic paranormal evidence, as well as had several personal experiences.

History of The Merry Monk Pub

The Merry Monk pub stands at the corner of The Market Place and is situated near the old Roman Road, which was known as Dere Street, that would have run straight through the town. The building itself dates back to the 1600s.

The cellar, which still stands in its original form, has a passage door that is believed to have once ran to Auckland Castle and can be traced back to the time of Henry VIII. It's believed that the local monks brewed their alcohol here, and then used the tunnel to transport it to the Castle away from the public's eye.

Previously named The Sportsman Inn/Arms, there is a belief it has not only been used as a public house, but also as a school or orphanage.

Activity at The Merry Monk has been reported over a number of years and by various witnesses. The Phenomena includes unexplained voices and figures in the old bar area, doors opening and shutting by themselves, and electrical appliances switching themselves on and off.

Investigating The Merry Monk

We got to The Merry Monk at about 6 p.m. to set up our night vision CCTV cameras and other recording devices. As we were setting up in the cellar downstairs, Hannah (one of the psychic mediums in the group) heard a man say, "Help." Janette (another psychic medium) decided to take some photos of the cellar, only to find that she had caught what looked like a man of the cloth in the photo (see the photo on the next page).

Once we set up the equipment and trigger objects, which included a wooden cross on the mantelpiece in the bar, and were conducting last-minute preparations, we found the cross had been knocked off the mantel.

As we began the investigation, we started in the bar. We held a séance and started to do some calling out in the hope that spirit would respond. The mediums

Pictured above at left: The Spectre Detectors team conducts a table tipping experiment. Pictured above at right: A Spectre Detectors team member takes a photo in the cellar of The Merry Monk, which looks like a monk or man of the cloth.

picked up that the monks had joined us and were lined up behind us. We did a spirit box session, which is a gadget that allows the spirit to speak to the group via white noise, and it started to say various words, which included "sick, stress, and where's the dog?" The family pet was upstairs in the living area, so Susan went up to make sure she was OK.

What we didn't realize was that later on when we were in the cellar, we caught a dog howling on the Handycam, which couldn't have been the family dog. The cellar was solid stone, the dog was two floors higher, and we didn't hear her howl all night.

In the bar, we did a small session with the dowsing rods. Susan decided to have a go and had great success with them. We also had some great results with the K-II EMF Meter, which detects electromagnetic fields. It is said that if a spirit goes near a K-II Meter, it can communicate by lighting up the lights to give answers to questions.

Over the course of the night, we decided to split the group into three, one group went into the cellar, one went into the alleyway (which was the original entrance to the building), and one stayed in the bar to do some table tipping. Our groups alternated locations throughout the night.

In the cellar we did various spirit box sessions and got some great responses to questions. We all had various personal experiences, including temperature fluctuations, strange feelings, audible tap responses, and unusual drafts. We heard various sounds, including what can only be described as someone standing on a plastic bottle; only we couldn't find anything on the floor.

WE EXPERIENCED TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS, STRANGE FEELINGS, AUDIBLE TAP RESPONSES, AND UNUSUAL DRAFTS.

We decided to play some Gregorian chants, and Hannah got out her rosary beads and hung them over her wrist. The rosary started to sway quite rapidly. Hannah picked up on a monk that had been captured, stripped, flogged, and burned, and she had to leave the cellar not long after. She asked a couple of the group to go to the toilet with her and check her back, only to find that she had marks on her back like she had been flogged.

Earlier I had picked up the feeling of being burned on my face, so I could have been picking up the monk that was burned at the stake.

In the alleyway, there were sounds of movement, which we also caught on Handycam, light anomalies, and

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Pictured above is the entrance to the tunnel in the cellar that is believed to be linked to Auckland Castle. While in the cellar during the team's investigation, they played some Gregorian chants, hoping to trigger paranormal activity. Hannah, one of the team's psychics, picked up on a monk that had been captured, stripped, flogged, and burned.

a whining sound of a lady. Again, people were having personal experiences, including headaches, a feeling like their legs were bound, feeling emotional, thuds, and temperature changes. A spirit box session was done and various words were caught, including "shut up" and "what are you doing?"

The mediums picked up quite a lot that night, including a little boy called Marcus who looked like a street urchin, roman soldiers, a gentleman called Burt who had white hair and was wearing a suit. Burt seemed to take a liking to Shayna (another medium), as she reminded him of his granddaughter.

They also picked up monks, including Brother Francis, Brother Thomas, and Brother Samuel. We picked up the presence of a dog, and lots of the group experienced feeling it around their legs. People also experienced feeling sick, which is what the spirit box had said earlier in the night.

We decided to end the evening with a final séance in the bar. The spirit box said various words during that last session, including "what are you doing?, yes, bless him, bitches, and shut up." It also gave how many spirit people were in the room and the age of one of the spirits.

Janette picked up on lots of children in the room and that beermats get thrown around (which Chris confirmed).

It was a fantastic investigation, which we conducted over five hours. We felt that we had been shown some amazing evidence during that time. The footage from the investigation is available to view on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAZMU9AootOL0yNqco-Pn8CQ/videos) and Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/spectredetectors/). We are also planning on returning to do another investigation, so that the general public can experience an incredible site that does not disappoint.

Janette picked up on a lot of children in the room and that beermats get thrown around (which the owner confirmed).

Chris is going to clear the alleyway so that we can have full access and is looking to make the entrance to the tunnel larger.

It's a fantastic building, steeped in history, and we can't wait to return. Maybe the monks will break their vow of silence! ◆

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'Called by the Vampire'

By V. Vaughn

Q&A by Michelle M. Pillow, MichellePillow.com

V. Vaughn lives off the coast of Maine. She spends a good deal of time outdoors and in the forest. She's been making up stories in her head since she can remember and now puts those daydreams to good use by creating fictional worlds in the paranormal romance genre.

Her paranormal romance, *Called by the Vampire Part 1*, released June 2017. We recently spoke with V. Vaughn about her new book and thoughts on paranormal phenomena.

* * * * *

Q: In *Called by the Vampire,* you explore the phenomenon of a heart transplant patient experiencing the donor's emotions. What inspired you to write about this?

Vaughn: I read an article about heart transplant patients taking on their donor's traits. It fascinated me, and since I write romance I immediately imagined what it would be like if your heart was in love with one man because of your donor but your soul fell for another. My poor heroine; I took things a step further and made the two men vampire brothers.

Q: Why do you think readers, and society in general are fascinated by the paranormal?

Vaughn: There are so many unexplained events that happen around us, and we all love to understand why. In our search for answers, we get to create theories and imagine why good or bad things happen.

V. Vaughn, who also writes under the name Violet Vaughn, writes about shapeshifters, vampires, and aliens, as well as contemporary romance. Her newest book is titled *Called by the Vampire*.

I think overall people are hopeful, and by attributing the unexplainable to outside forces, we can believe that there are good entities in the Universe looking out for us.

Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?

Vaughn: My first memory of being fascinated with the paranormal was hiding behind a chair watching *Dark Shadows*. I don't remember much about the show other than scaring myself and wanting more. I went through a phase of wanting all my paranormal entertainment to terrify me.

When *X-Files* came along, I was hooked on the more scientific approach, and I've since evolved to more romance-focused shows like *Roswell* and *Vampire Diaries*. When it comes to books, Stephen King has a special place in my heart, and I'll read anything he writes. I'm currently in a romance phase and devouring everything T. S. Joyce has written.

Q: Do you believe in the supernatural?

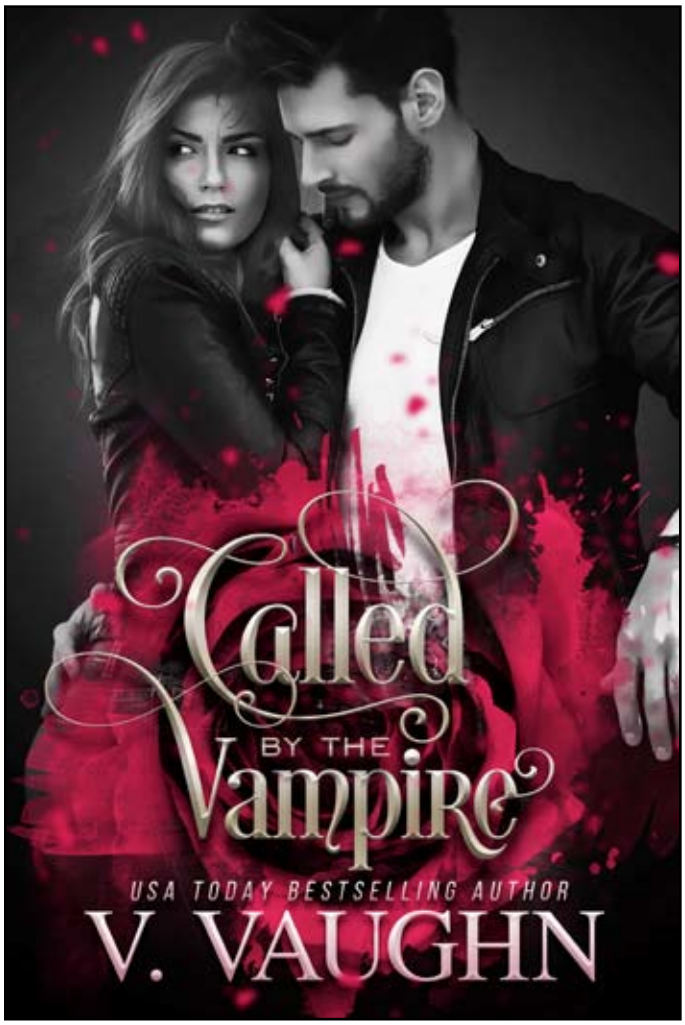
Vaughn: I do think aliens and other supernatural entities exist, but not the type I write about.

Q: Have you ever had a paranormal experience?

Vaughn: I'm not sure I've encountered any paranormal beings. I'm not very observant, because I spend a lot of time in my head, but there was an incident in my past I'll never forget. One that can only be attributed to some greater power looking out for my family and me.

When my kids were young, we lived in Pennsylvania. I would take them to my parents on the coast of Maine for two months of the summer. On the night before the day we were supposed to return to Pennsylvania, I packed up the car and laid out the clothing we would wear the next day. That night I had a nightmare. I dreamt that I was looking down at a car accident and realized it was my car. I saw a policeman holding my daughter on his hip and heard her ask if Mommy was going to be OK. Then I saw myself covered in blood and lying on the asphalt in the shorts and pink T-shirt I had intended to wear for the trip. I knew I was dead. I bolted up in bed in a cold sweat, and without even thinking about how crazy it might seem, I rushed out to car and found something new to wear. I didn't mention my dream to anyone.

On the trip home, we passed a car accident. Goosebumps rose on my skin as we did, and when we drove by my daughter looked out the window and said, "The Mommy is going to be OK." I asked her, "How do you know that?" My daughter answered, "Her shirt is blue." When we got home I shredded and threw away the pink T-shirt.



"When Maggie Evans had a heart transplant, she received more than a new organ from her donor. She also got a piece of the woman's soul, and now Maggie can feel emotions she can't explain. Emotions that help her decide to take a job for Sebastian Hart in a dark mansion on the coast of Maine."

Q: What kind of paranormal creatures do you wish you could meet?

Vaughn: I would like to see a ghost. People fascinate me, and I would like to hear the ghost's story of why they are making themselves known in the present world. I'm not as eager to meet an alien, and that's mostly because I fear one would not be interested in me for general curiosity. I have no desire to be a test subject.

Q: If given the chance, would you become a vampire?

Vaughn: Definitely. The kind that gets more beautiful and younger would be nice. I'd also like to have super strength, speed, and telepathic abilities. I love life, and I think I'd like to live for hundreds of years.

Q: What does the future hold for your paranormal romance worlds?

Vaughn: I've written about werebears, werewolves, vampires, and aliens. I love each of my worlds, and in the next two years my plans are to add to all four.

Q: Have you ever been to a psychic?

Vaughn: I went once when I was in my 30s. I think most of what she told me was pretty generic stuff, and I can't say that anything made me believe she could predict my future. However, I have had a couple of tarot card readings that were very insightful. I believe like anything, there are people who are genuine about their craft and those who aren't.

> "I HAVE HAD A COUPLE OF TAROT CARD READINGS THAT WERE VERY INSIGHTFUL."

Q: How feasible is a zombie apocalypse?

Vaughn: It seems next to impossible to me. The science of it doesn't seem plausible. But that doesn't mean I don't spend time thinking about how I'd survive one. I have plans to figure out a recipe for penicillin to ensure I'm one of the few middle-aged women others find worth protecting.

Q: Choose your fate: Would you rather face being abducted by menacing aliens or face the threat of zombies?

Vaughn: Assuming we're talking about *Walking Dead* zombies, I'm going with them. I like to understand what I'm up against. I think I'd have a chance, too, especially since I know how to ride a bicycle. Has it ever occurred to you that other than the first episode of *Walking Dead* nobody ever thinks to use an ordinary bicycle for transportation?

Q: What first interested you in the paranormal?

Vaughn: At 14, Stephen King changed my life. My grandmother gave me *Salem's Lot* to read and told me not to tell my parents. I think she was tired of making up ghost stories for me. When I delved into a world that I believed could really happen, I began to look at ordinary situations and wonder, what if?

I took that curiosity and applied it to my writing in my first paranormal series, *Called by the Bear*. The books deal with ordinary women who are called to a bear clan because they are part werebear. The women are thrown into a secret world full of danger and adventure.

When I decided to try paranormal romance, I knew I wanted to engage the reader in more than a love story, though. I wanted to add the heart-pumping element of danger. Shows like *Vampire Diaries* inspired me to not only leave the reader hanging over the cliff, but by a tiny thread sure to snap at any moment.

I believe in our core we all have a strong desire to survive, and that no matter what comes our way, we need to believe we can find the ability within to let good triumph over evil. Books and shows that deal with the paranormal feed that belief, and maybe they prepare us for strange encounters in our future too.

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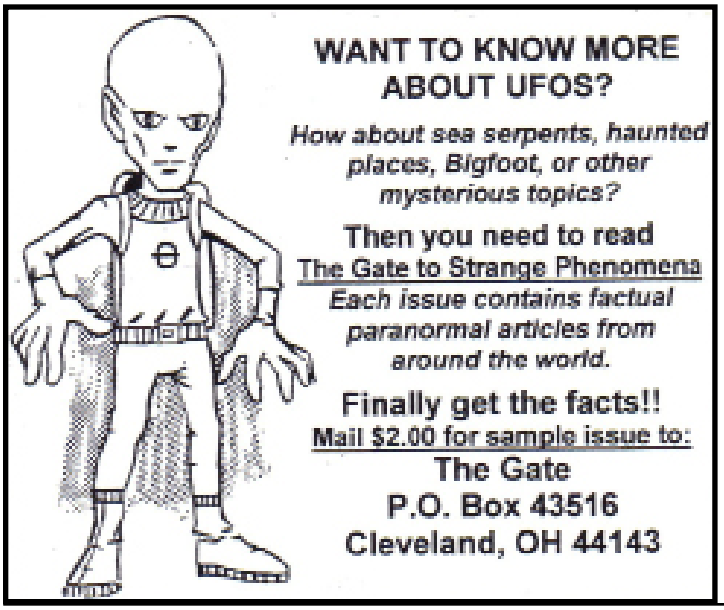
To learn more about V. Vaughn and her books, visit http://www.violetvaughn.com/. ◆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